

y. M. of Frds for N. E  
Richmond Monthly Mtg  
Epistles, Certificates  
Marriages

1-24-1793 - 5-4-1820

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY  
MEETING OF FRIENDS



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Those three Books are for  
Uxbridge monthly meeting 1862

Ruth A. Harkness

100.44.3	Richmond Mo. mtg.
No.	Men
<del>210</del>	9
(mem)	Women
2	Epistles, Certificates, &c.
	From 1.24.1793 - 5.24.1820
	YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS FOR NEW ENGLAND



















Books belonging to Richmond Monthly Meeting  
in the care of Moses Allen 6<sup>th</sup> Month 1800

A Great Bible

The Journal of Daniel Stanton

Robert Barclays Catechism

The Grounds of a Holy Life by Hugh Turford

The Doctrine of Baptisms by William Dell

Two Considerations on the true Harmony of Mankind  
by John Woolman

Two Reasons why the People called Quakers do not pay  
Tithes

Two Epistles to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings of Friends  
Signed John Woolman



Richmond Monthly Meetings Book of Records  
for Epistles &c

A Testimony of the Denial of Silas Gaskill

From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond the  
24<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month 1793

Whereas Silas Gaskill hath been Considered a Member  
of our Society But for want of attending to the Manifestation  
of Truth hath gone into divers Practices contrary to the  
Principles we Profess. he much Neglects the Attendance of  
our Religious Meetings, and conforms to the Fashions of  
the World in Language and Dress frequents Places of  
Merriment & Dancing for which Disorderly Conduct he  
hath been Labour'd with, it not having the desired Effect  
we have Disowned Unity with him as a Member & Put  
him from under our Care until he make Satisfaction

Signed in & by Order of Said Meeting by  
Jahazaniah Barrett Clerk

The Conclusion of the Quarterly Meeting respecting the  
Select Members

Upon Solidly considering the subject respecting the  
Select Members at Richmond as refered from last Quarter  
it is Concluded that those of Richmond & Uxbridge Monthly  
Meetings Constitute a Meeting and that it be held for the  
first time at Uxbridge the Second Day of the Week Preceding  
the Quarterly Meeting

Those of Smithfield one to be held the day before the Prepara-  
-tive Meeting next Preceding the Quarterly Meeting

And those of Providence one to be also held the day before  
their Preparative Meeting Preceding the Quarter and that  
the Meetings at those times severally Conclude for them-  
-selves for the future & the Clerk is directed to send each  
of those Monthly Meetings a Copy of this Minute

Copy extracted from the Minutes of Rhode Island



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Quarterly Meeting held the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>th</sup> Month 1793  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Freeborn Clerk

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of London for 1793

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting ~~Held~~ in London,  
by adjournments, from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of the Fifth Month,  
1793; inclusive,

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends  
in Great Britain, Ireland, and Elsewhere.

Dear Friends,

We salute you in Gospel love, and in a degree of that  
humility, which a close inspection into the state of our religious  
society at this time, hath produced: for, although we may thank-  
fully acknowledge that we have not found things in so neglect-  
ed a condition ~~as in~~ <sup>some</sup> former years; and some encreas-  
ing concern appears to have invested the minds of many  
brethren, for the support of our testimonies; yet much remains to  
be done, and much laborious exercise of spirit to be patiently  
endured, before our Sion can become, so eminently as we trust  
she is designed to be, the praise of nations. Friends may  
every one of you, who may read or hear this our tender salutation,  
closely and effectually consider in what instance, and to what  
degree, he obstructs, in his practice, the accomplishment of a  
design so gracious.

Our Meeting hath been large, and through the mercy of our  
Holy Head and High Priest, hath been favoured with the renew-  
ed assistance of his Spirit; and although divers matters have  
occurred which have been subjects of considerable discussion,  
we have afresh experienced the prevalence of Christian conde-  
scension.

The accounts of sufferings brought in this year amount  
in Great Britain, to Six Thousand and Eighty Pounds, and  
in Ireland, to One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty nine  
Pounds. The largest part, as usual, is for those ecclesiastical  
demands with which we scruple actively to comply, as being  
the support of a ministry formed by the will of man; and not  
only inefficacious in combating the desires of the carnal mind  
(which, saith the Holy Scripture, is at enmity with God) but too  
generally made subservient to its purposes.



Our correspondence with our brethren in Ireland, and on the Continent of America, is maintained, and we have received Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings, informing us of their concern for the cause of Truth, and, in some of those from America, of their continued care to be, as opportunities offer, the advocates of the oppressed Black People. The slow progress in this <sup>country</sup> of the cause of these our fellow men we lament, but do not despair of its success: and we desire Friends may never suffer the cause to cool on their minds, through the delay which the opposition of interested men hath occasioned, in this work of justice and mercy; but rather be animated to consider, that the longer the opposition remains, the more necessity there is, on the side of righteousness and benevolence, for steadiness, perseverance, and continued breathing of spirit to the God and Father of all, who formed of one blood all the families of the earth.

From Philadelphia we learn that Friends have also had at heart to be instrumental in promoting a pacification with the frontier and other Indians, in which benevolent purpose they are encouraged by the Indians themselves; who having been accustomed for more than a century, to just and kind treatment from Friends, have been induced to repose much confidence in them.

At our last Yearly Meeting, we were engaged to caution our Members against suffering the voice of party to draw any of us from the steadfastness which we may possess in Christ; and now, when war is making its ravages in the adjacent nations, we are again concerned to exhort Friends, that on all occasions, they convince themselves to be indeed the followers of the Prince of Peace. as we profess to be restrained from joining in a practice so desolating to mankind, let us not indulge the spirit of it in our selves, or encourage it in others, by making the events of war a frequent subject of conversation; but, so far as we are truly redeemed from those warring lusts in our selves, James iv. 1. to which the apostle ascribes its origin, let us, as being enabled, be frequently engaged in secret supplication to the God of the Spirits of all flesh, that it may please him to break the bow, and cut the spear in sunder; making wars to cease unto the end of the earth: Psal. lvi. 9. and to enlist the nations under his holy banner, in opposition to those iniquities which are a reproach



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to the profession of Christianity.

Many have been of late the overturnings and failures in the commercial world; and some amongst us have not escaped the disgrace. We desire these things may operate as a call to all of us, who may need the caution, to contract rather than to enlarge our plans for the acquisition of wealth. Let us sooner endeavour to secure a competency, by contracting our wants and limiting our desires; recollecting, that as Christ, our great example, declared his kingdom not to be of this world, so neither can his faithful followers make it the storehouse of their treasure. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also: Matt. vi. 12, 20, 21.

Signed in and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, by

George Braithwaite,

Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

The Epistle from Rhode Island Yearly Meeting for 1793

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1793

To the Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging  
Dear Friends

With the salutation of Brotherly Love we salute you & hereby inform that we have duly received accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging together with answers to the Queries, & are sorrowfully affected in observing that there are many deficiencies still remaining & fallings short with respect to the various duties incumbent on those who are making so high & holy a profession; that of being actuated & influenced by the Spirit of Truth, & we think it unnecessary to enter into a detail of all the deficiencies above alluded to & to communicate advices particularly respecting <sup>them</sup> being sensible that when the Tree is corrupt the Fruit must



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consequently be impure, We therefore recommend a particular attention to the sanctifying operation of the Divine Power by which only the defection in practice can be removed, & we animated to proceed in the line of Divine appointment to the performance of our Religious & social Duties & the enjoyment of that Peace & Liberty which is the peculiar privilege of those whose dwelling is in the Light and as we abide therein we shall have fellowship one with another & unitedly engage in a fervent Labour for the promotion of Truth in the Earth, & for the establishment of that excellent order & harmony which we believe is consistent with the will of our Heavenly Father to be maintained in the Church and amongst his People. Notwithstanding Dear Friends in our Epistle of 1791 we earnestly recommend a due attention to that Class of Friends who in the course of Providence are not blessed with the outward comforts of Life a renewed concern hath possessed the minds of Friends that an additional care may be extended in such Meetings where there has not been a full compliance with the Recommendation respecting them & particularly that they be all supplied with the Holy Scriptures & such other Books as may be adapted to their particular circumstances. And as there were ways pointed out for supplying the Indigent with Books suited to the promotion of Piety & Virtue among them where Monthly Meetings might not be able to supply the want without the expence of them being too sensibly felt by such Monthly Meetings applying to the Meeting for Sufferings for their aid & assistance to be supplied out of this Meetings Stock, such Meetings as remain indifferent to research in this respect will be left without excuse, & in order that this Meeting may be clear herein we again advise to the appointment of Committees for this purpose & request an account to the next yearly Meeting of the progress that may be made therein.

Signed on behalf & by direction of said Meeting  
by William Rotch jun<sup>r</sup> Clerk to  
the Meeting this Year



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Extracts from the Quarterly Meetings Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1793

It not appearing that Transcripts of the Yearly Meetings Epistle has been made out by the Clerk as directed at last Quarter and the same being now rec<sup>d</sup>. The Representatives are desired to make out a sufficient number of Transcripts for the several Monthly Meetings and forward the same to them and return the Original to the Clerk. And the Monthly Meetings are desired to pay seasonable and proper attention to the same in order for a return to be made to the Yearly Meeting. And the Clerk is directed to forward a Copy of this Minute to each Monthly Meeting.

Your Proportion of the Yearly Meetings Stock as apportioned by the Representatives is £1. 6. 0 which the Quarterly Meeting desires may be forwarded to the Yearly Meetings Treasurer and an account thereof to next Quarter.

The Committee appointed in the 10<sup>th</sup> Month last to attend the Monthly Meeting of Richmond from time to time ~~and to report at this time~~ not being ready to report that matter is still continued under their care and they are desired to report to next Quarter and in the mean time that that Monthly Meeting continue their Meeting as heretofore.

Extracted from the Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting held at Smithfield for Rhode Island the 10<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1793

W<sup>m</sup> Almy Clerk for this time

Israel Sabin's Certificates

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond in the State of New Hampshire in New England the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1793

To the Quarterly and other Meetings of Friends in the State of New York



Dear Friends

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Our Esteemed Friend Israel Sabin having laid before us a Concern which he has for some time felt to perform a religious visit among you, and we taking the same into solid Consideration and having Unity with him therein

Do hereby certify on his Behalf that his a Minister in Unity with us and his Life and Conversation corresponding with his Profession as such we recommend him to your Brotherly Care and Sympathy desiring when his Service is accomplished among you he may return to his Family and Friends with the Reward of Peace

Signed in and by order of said Meeting By

Sarah Buffum  
Hannah Gaskill  
Mary Bennett  
Joanna Twitchel  
Comfort Allen  
Ruth Martin  
Susanna Harkness  
Lilpah Cass  
Rachel Mery  
Beulah Saben  
Amey Sweet  
Abigail Taft  
Rhoda Barrett

Nathan Harkness  
Moses Allen  
John Gorton  
Paul Handy  
Jauzannah Barrett  
Asa Aldrich  
Pelag Taft  
James Brown  
Cyril Gamsey

At a Quarterly Meeting held at Portsmouth and  
and on Rhode Island the 8<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> mo 1793

The within Certificate having been read in this  
Meeting and weightily considered is concurred with

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting

By Benj<sup>n</sup> Freeborn Clerk



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Our Friend Israel Sabin attended this Meeting with the  
within Certificate his Company was acceptable to us  
Signed in and on behalf of our Monthly Meeting held at  
Ninepartners 16<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> mo 1793  
by Isaac Thorn Clerk

Our Friend Israel Sabin within named acceptably  
attended this Meeting  
Signed by direction & on behalf of our Quarterly Meeting  
held on the Oblong 30<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> mo 1793  
Richard Mott Clerk

From our Monthly Meeting held at Danby the 19<sup>th</sup>  
of 12<sup>th</sup> mo 1793

To the Monthly Meeting held at Richmond  
Dear Friends after our love to you we hereby inform  
that Israel Sabin attended our Monthly Meeting in the  
Ninth Month last in Company with Daniel Aldrich and  
hath visited most or all the Meetings of Friends in these  
parts whose Company and labour in love were to comfort  
and Satisfaction.

Signed in and by order of the Meeting aforesaid  
by Stephen Baker Clerk

To the Monthly Meeting to be held at Richmond in  
New England

Dear Friends  
Our beloved friend Israel Sabin having in the  
course of his visit attended our Quarterly Meeting held the 6<sup>th</sup>  
of 11<sup>th</sup> Month last also most of the Meetings belonging thereto  
with your Certificate Dated 18<sup>th</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> mo 1793 his Company  
and Exemplary Deportment was truly acceptable and  
Edifying to us with Desires for his preservation with a  
renewal of peace We conclude in near affection your friends

Signed in and on behalf of our Quarterly Meeting  
held at Nine partners in the State of New York  
5<sup>th</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> mo 1794  
by John Hoak Clerk



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The Epistle from Rhode Island Yearly Meeting  
for 1794

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for  
New England by adjournment from the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Month to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1794

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends  
hereto belonging

Dear Friends

With a degree of Thankfulness that we acknowledge  
our being favoured to meet together again in this our Solemn  
Assembly and having received accounts from all the Quar-  
terly Meetings we are afresh convinced that there is a  
Living well engaged number who are concerned not only  
for the Preparation & Confirmation of their own hearts  
in the way of Righteousness & Divine acceptance but also  
a good degree of engagement for the support of our wholesome  
Discipline and the maintainance of good order in our Society  
at Large. Nevertheless we are sorrowfully affected at the many  
defects that have appeared within the borders of our Religious  
Community how is it Dear Friends you who are in the Neg-  
lect of the attendance of our Religious Meetings on Week days  
do you experience that living circulating Life to abound  
are you not sensible that you have robbed the Lord of Tithes  
& Offering. why are we become so remiss in a Testimony our  
worthy Predecessors suffered so much to maintain. Let there  
be an enquiry in each one for his own Soul to know how the ac-  
count stands between him and his Creator and if there be found  
a want of love or obedience to him let there be a doubling of  
our diligence until there be a Possession obtained and then we  
have reason to believe there would be no lack of love one to another  
which is so much noted to be wanted by the Answers to the Queries  
by which also it appears that some have waxed so cold in  
their love to God as when met on this Solemn Occasion  
for Divine Worship as to give way to a Sleepy Disposition  
which is disgraceful in the Eyes of beholders and  
offending.



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offending to Omniscient Purity. as it is a time of Corrup-  
tion among the inhabitants of the Earth many in this Coun-  
try being in the spirit of war have much of their Conversation  
therein. we feel it impressed on our minds to exhort all  
Friends that they come out & be separated from such a spirit  
endeavoring with all diligence to center our minds to that  
Principle of Light & Life which breathes Peace on Earth  
and good will unto men guarding against being anxious  
for the Success of any Contending Party thereby manifesting  
that the Kingdom of our Leader is not of this world but Con-  
sisteth in Righteousness and Peace. And it is also with  
concern that we find by the Answer to the Query that there  
are a few who deal in and a considerable Number who use  
Spiritous Liquors and some even to Intoxication now we earn-  
estly recommend that all who have the Special Oversight  
of the Flock and other concerned Friends do carefully keep on  
their watch and when there appears in any a defection from  
our Testimony in those respects that <sup>they</sup> be cautioned & admonished  
and if any should disregard the labour and care of their Friends  
as not to refrain that they be reported to and dealt with by the  
Monthly Meeting as disorderly walkers according to our Disci-  
pline that the lamp be kept clean and wholesome  
signed in behalf of our said Meeting.

by W.<sup>m</sup> Rotch jun<sup>r</sup> Clerk  
to the Meeting this Year

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of London for 1794

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London by  
adjournments, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of the Fifth Month  
1794 inclusive.

Dear Friends,

A Degree of that love which drew our predecessors from the  
various forms of religion, to wait upon the Lord, and to serve  
him in simplicity and holy fear, engages us afresh to salute  
you; desiring that ye may increase and abound in every good



work; and that, as lights in the world, ye may so shine as to glorify our heavenly Father.

Our present assembly hath been very large; and we have, as usual, received accounts from the several branches of this meeting, and also epistles from our brethren on the American continent. The amount of sufferings brought in this year (chiefly for tithes and those called church rates) is Six thousand nine hundred and forty pounds in Britain and One thousand six hundred and twenty five pounds in Ireland. Here we may briefly remark, that as we believe no genuine minister of Christ can dare to traffick with the truths of the Gospel, we are concerned fervently to exhort all friends to be steadfast, in maintaining the testimony most surely given us to bear against this violation of the Spirit and Letter of it.

We have been reminded, in this meeting, of such of our friends as are in lonely situations, and few in number. We desire these may be concerned not to neglect their little meetings; but therein to wait upon the Lord, in whose presence there is life, and to have their expectations on him alone: considering, that his tender compassion is not only to the multitude, but descends even to the two or three gathered in his name. Let this indeed be encouragement to all, to persevere in the practice of assembling for the worship of God: and as all are in need of help, from above, to strengthen them in the performance of their several duties, whether as parents, as heads of families, as children, or as servants; let us humbly trust that those who thus, in integrity of soul, honour him, and endeavour to walk before him with acceptance, will by him be honoured with his gracious assistance and support.

We find our selves also engaged at this time, to caution all our fellow professors to watch, with close attention against giving way to the unsubjected activity of their own spirits. Many there are, who, although willing to confess the impotency thereof for promoting the spiritual



welfare of men, are yet unwilling to submit it to the restraint of divine wisdom, in outward engagements. From this cause such have often failed in plausible pursuits, often brought reproach on our profession, often distress on themselves. Thus also some have been improperly led into speculative opinions on the affairs of this unstable world, and the commotions which rend it, very inconsistently with the purity and simplicity of our principles, and unbecoming those who profess to be subjects of the peaceable kingdom of Christ. Let not such indulge themselves in contention, even with their tongues. Follow peace with all men. Study to be quiet and do your own business: remembering that the spiritual Jerusalem is a quiet habitation; and that to lead a holy, unblamable life among men, walking in the fear of the Lord, and according to the direction of that light wherewith he favours us, is to contribute, in the degree which he approves, to the advancement of true reformation in the earth.

Although we are still unable to rejoice in beholding an end to the sufferings of our African fellow-men, we continue to cherish a tender concern for their restoration to their proper rank in society. On the the subject of the Slave Trade being laid before us, a solemn pause ensued: and though no step appears expedient for us, at this juncture, to take as a body; we desire that every one of us may continue to sympathize with this afflicted people, and endeavour to excite, in his respective sphere of acquaintance, a like compassion for their almost unparalleled sufferings.

Dear Friends, we have not any desire unprofitably to multiply words; but Oh, that we might be enabled to rouse the vigilance among us, of every age, and of every appearance, to the awful thought that they are not their own. Surely were this alarm effectually sounded in their ears, many who now gird themselves, go whither they list, and absent themselves when they list from an attendance on the Lord's service, would not



only submit to be restrained by his fear, but would pray that his hand might not spare, or his eye pity, until a disposition was produced and established in them, to serve him in singleness of heart.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting.

Joseph Gurney Bevan.

Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

### Marriage Certificate of Moses Allen

Moses Allen of Richmond Son of Moses Allen of Said Richmond in the County of Cheshire & State of New Hampshire and Comfort his wife and Mary Dow Daughters of Nehemiah Dow of Salisbury in the County of Rockingham & Patience his Wife having declared their Intentions of taking each other in Marriage before Several Monthly Meetings of the People called Quakers in the County of Cheshire according to the good Order used among them, their Proceedings after due Enquiry & deliberate Consideration thereof were allowed by the Said Meetings they appearing clear of all others and having Consent of Parents & others concerned

Now these are to certify all whom it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their Said Intentions this Twenty ninth day of the Tenth Month in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Five They the said Moses Allen & Mary Dow appeared at a publick Assembly of the aforesaid People & others in their Meeting House in Richmond & he the said Moses Allen taking the said Mary Dow by the Hand did openly declare as followeth Friends I take this my Friend Mary Dow to be my Wife promising through



divine Assistance to be unto her a loving & faithful  
Husband until it shall please the Lord by Death  
to separate us & the said Mary Dow did then & there  
in like manner declare as followeth Friends I take  
this my Friend Moses Allen to be my Husband prom-  
ising through divine Assistance to be unto him a loving  
& faithful Wife until it shall please the Lord by Death  
to separate us or words of the like import And the  
said Moses Allen & Mary Dow as a further confirma-  
tion thereof have hereunto set their hands She after  
the Custom of Marriage assuming the Name of her  
Husband

Moses Allen  
Mary Allen

And we whose Names are hereunto  
subscribed being present with others at the  
Consumation of their said Marriage as  
witnesses thereunto set our hands the day  
& year above written

Rhoda Buffum  
Candace Buffum  
Huldah Wing

Moses Allen  
Comfort Allen  
Comfort Allen jun<sup>r</sup>  
Hannah Allen  
Abraham Allen  
Jerahmeel Allen  
Heriah Allen  
Abigail Allen  
Martha Allen  
Margaret Allen  
Jedidah Buffum  
Nathan Starkness  
Sarah Buffum  
Jaazh Barret  
Rhoda Barret  
Israel Sabin  
Sarah Knowles  
John Wing  
Paul Fillion



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A Testimony of the Denial of William Wing  
From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond  
the 23 of the 4 Month 1795.

Whereas William Wing son of John has had a Right of Membership in our Religious Society But not duly attending to the manifestations of the Spirit a Measure whereof is given to every Man to profit withal he has much neglected to attend our religious Meetings not keeping to plainness but too frequently associates with light & unprofitable Company who divert themselves in merriment & Dancing an Instance of which he has been instrumental in accomodating & we having laboured with him for his Restoration without the desired effect have disowned Unity with him and put him from under our Care as a Member until by Repentance & amendment of Life he return & make Satisfaction Signed in & by order of Said Meeting

By Jaazaniah Barrett Clerk

A Testimony of the Denial of George Handy

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond the 23 day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Month 1795

Whereas George Handy who hath had a Right of Membership in our religious Society for want of taking heed to the Principle of truth in his own mind he hath so far fallen short of maintaining our Principles in his Life & Conversation as to fall in to divers things disreputable to the Christian Name reproachful to our religious Profession viz Very much neglected the due attendance of Religious Meetings associated with vain and wicked company Neglected that Plainness both in Speech and Habit which we Profess and Practised vain



~~Swear~~ing as himself confessed for all which Particulars we have laboured with him in order to bring him to a sight & sence of the evil of these things without the desired effect wherefore these are to certify that we have disowned him as a Member of our society,

Signed in & on behalf of our Said Meeting  
By Jaazh Barrett Clerk

A Testimony of the Denial of Nathan Case

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond the 21<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> Month 1795

Whereas Nathan Case son of Deborah Case widow hath had a right of Membership in our Religious Society & he not walking answerable to our Profession in divers respects Namely has been Deficient in the due attendance of religious Meetings & frequents such Company as Balling Gaming & Dancing & has partook with them therein & falls short in the Example of Purity agreeable to our Profession & after having spent much labour & waited on him for his return have found it necessary to Disown him as a Member until he shall become sensible of the evil tendency of his ways and be able to make Satisfaction to his Friends

Signed in and by order of Said Meeting by  
Cyril Gamsey Clerk for the Day



Proposition of Yearly Meeting Week 1795  
at a Quarterly Meeting held at Portsmouth the 13<sup>th</sup> of  
8<sup>th</sup> mo 1795

it appearing by the Extracts of the Yearly  
Meeting Minutes that said Meeting had concluded  
to raise the Sum of one hundred Pounds the Clerk is  
directed to forward each monthly Meeting their proposition  
of the same

Richmond Monthly Meetings proposition  
being £ 1. 6. 0 Examined  
by George Arnold Clk

A Testimony of the Denial of Barney Gaskill  
from our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at  
Richmond 19<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> Mo 1796

Whereas Barney Gaskill who hath been considered  
a member of our religious Society instead of closing  
in with the manifestation of truth in his own mind he  
has so far given way to the propensities of corrupt na-  
ture as to render himself guilty of divers things  
dishonourable to the profession we make as a religious  
Society viz he has divers times appeared to be guilty  
of excessive Drinking & Profane Swearing and at one  
time treating one of his fellows in an abusive manner  
in words Challenge him to fight Darnning him &c  
and we having laboured with him in order to bring him  
to a right sense of the evil tendency of his ways without  
the desired <sup>effect</sup> have put him from under our care as a mem-  
ber until he shall be able to make suitable Satisfaction  
to his Friends—

Signed in & by order of the above Said Meeting

By Jaz<sup>h</sup> Barrett Clerk



The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting  
for 1795

From our Yearly Meeting held in London by  
adjournments from the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1795 to the 27<sup>th</sup>  
of the same inclusive.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Newport on  
Rhode Island for New England

Dear Friends,

We are sensible a correspondence only formal  
is not availing or at all likely to contribute to real  
benefit - yet we are desirous a Brotherly intercourse  
may be maintained - which as it is continued in the  
renewed feeling of that unity which is produced by  
being baptized by the one Spirit into the one Body,  
will tend to mutual strength & edification - We  
trust it is under some degree of this influence we  
are inclined at this time to inform you that altho  
no Epistle has been now received from you, you have  
had a place in our Remembrance.

Our Meeting has been large and immeasurably  
over-shadowed with the extendings of Divine Regard.  
Many of the ancients among us have of late been  
removed yet we rejoice in the prospect of a successi-  
on having at this time had the company of a con-  
siderable number of our younger Brethren, and an  
increasing concern appears for the more faithful  
maintainance & support of our Testimonies.

This Meeting hath been a season of Instruction,  
and much profitable Counsel hath been administered  
and we are sensible of the necessity of waiting for the  
renewed influence of Divine Love and Life in all our  
Religious Concerns; under this impression we feel a



tender Desire that you may also Experience this Divine Love to preside in your Religious Assemblies, and not look back to former experience but wait for the fresh pulling forth of the holy Head and high Priest in all your Religious movements whether in the ministry or in the affairs of the Discipline

We Remain with the salutations of Love your  
Friends and Brethren  
Signed in and on behalf of our above said Meeting  
by Lawrence Candles Clk

P.S. Our beloved Friends Thomas Scattergood and Sarah Harrison are acceptably with us at this Yearly Meeting —

## An Epistle from Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting 1795

From our Yearly Meeting for Pennsylvania,  
New Jersey, Delaware, & the Eastern parts of Maryland  
& Virginia held in Philadelphia by adjournments from  
the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> to the 3<sup>d</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> inclusive  
1795  
To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held  
on Rhode Island for New England —

Dear Friends

Our Minds at this Season have been so far bound to the support of our Christian Discipline as to engage a large number of Friends to devote their time & attention to the Concerns thereof in this our Annual Assembly in which a renewed & lively Concern for our Well being as a Society was evidenced on the part of many Brethren who were enabled with pertinency to set forth the main cause whereby a manifest departure from ancient



Purity in Life & Practice hath proceeded, to wit a worldly spirit, which proves one of the greatest Enemies to the cause of Truth & Righteousness, as it not only defeats the gracious Purpose of Divine Regard in the dispitations of his Love in the Hearts of Individuals by producing a Resting place short of the true Rest but they often become stumbling blocks unto many honest Seekers of the right way of the Lord, wherefore dear Friends we are at this time desirous to excite in your Minds as well as our own a renewed Concern to recur to our first Principles and seek for a qualification to be more redeemed from the spirit of the World that so our Lights may become conspicuous unto others & they beholding our conduct harmonizing with our Holy Profession may be brought to an acknowledgement of the Truth in themselves.

It appears to many that this is a very important Day in which we live and a deep solicitude is felt that the Borders of Zion may be enlarged her walls repaired and that there may be an addition to her Inhabitants so that she may become the beauty of Nations & the praise of the whole Earth.

The Welfare of the Indian Nations of this Land hath particularly obtained our very serious attention & a large Committee of this Meeting was appointed to consider what may be incumbent on us as a religious Society for the promotion of their truest Interest in order that their minds may be prepared for the Reception of the blessed Truth as the most sure Foundation of their happy Civilization and for the advancement of this desirable Work it was agreed to raise a fund by Subscription for procuring Implements of Husbandry &c.



Your Epistle of the present Year was duly received & read in this Meeting by which we find that a number of the Youth amongst you have manifested a concern for the Promotion of the Cause of Truth at your late Yearly Meeting at which we rejoice & wish their encouragement & perseverance that so there may be a succession of living Members in the Church when those who now are and have been devoted to Support the Testimony of Truth may be removed from a Militant State - We remain with the Salutation of Brothers -  
 -ly Love - Your affectionate Friends

signed on behalf of the aforesaid Meeting

Jonathan Evans Clerk  
 to the Meeting this Year

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1796

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London By adjournments, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Month, 1796 inclusive.

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland, and elsewhere.

Dear Friends,

We find our minds again engaged to send you the salutation of our love in Christ; desiring that, as we have been careful not to address you in formality; nor without a fresh belief that it is our duty, so ye may not consider this our Epistle as a customary matter, nor read it in that disposition that is always seeking after some new thing; but may be willing to consider what parts of it are applicable to your own respective states; and let the expressions of our concern, for your present and everlasting welfare, receive, and retain, a sufficient place in your minds.

The accounts of the sufferings which have been sustain



ed by our Friends in Great Britain, and are now reported to this Meeting, amount to Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty eight Pounds; about One Thousand Pounds of which consist of distrainments for the late assessment for manning the navy: the rest, as usual, are chiefly for Tithes, and demands of a similar nature. The amount of sufferings brought in from Ireland, Two Thousand Three Hundred and Three Pounds. And as we are informed that an opinion publicly prevails, <sup>that</sup> the purpose of these accounts is in order that the sufferings may be reimbursed, we desire Friends every where, as occasion may offer, to contradict this opinion, which hath no foundation in truth.

The Friends mentioned in our last epistle to be imprisoned on account of our testimony against tithes, still remain prisoners in the county gaol at York; objects themselves, as well as their afflicted families, of the sympathy of their fellow-professors; to whose lot it hath not fallen to experience a treatment so rigorous.

We have this year received epistles from our Friends of the Yearly Meetings of North and South Carolina and Georgia, of Virginia, of Pennsylvania, of New York, and of New England, evincing their continued concern to support our testimonies, and our Christian discipline.

The inhabitants of the Continent, dwelling in fertile regions once possessed by different tribes of the Indian natives, are doubtless bound to regard them with benevolence: accordingly, we find our Friends engaged in an undertaking to furnish them with some of the comforts of civilized life, A fund is raising to supply the expence of instructing them in agriculture, in mechanic arts, and in some useful branches of learning.

On examining into the state of our Society in these nations,



we find cause to believe that, in many parts, the attention of Friends is gradually fixing, more and more closely, on the excellence of the several testimonies which we are required to bear: and we are persuaded that, were our members universally more loosened in their affections from the profits and the friendships of the world, the standard of Truth would be more conspicuously and availingly displayed.

Let us consider Brethren what is the cause of our dissent from the prevailing opinions and practices of the age. Is it not that we most surely believe that our faith is more consistent with the evangelical purity of the primitive times; and our manners less liable to promote an attachment to a world that passeth away? How then shall we set the candle, that hath been thus mercifully lighted in any of us, under the bed or the bushel; giving up any part of our testimony, be it ever so small, for the sake of ease, or of outward advantage?

The beloved Apostle declared that "God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all." A manifestation of this divine light, in infinite mercy, is given to every man, to lead him out of the misery of fallen nature, unto the Eternal Fountain of Life and Light. In every heart, and in every society of people, in which place is given to any kind of unrighteousness, an eclipse of the light necessarily follows as far as the compliance with evil extends; and if this state be continued in, spiritual death must ensue. Wherefore brethren, in your conduct as individuals, and in the part which ye take in the exercise of the discipline established amongst us, be ye animated to resist every appearance of evil, remembering that, as our Heavenly Father cannot unite with darkness, so neither must those unite with it, who desire to attain fellowship with him: in which fellowship our happiness consisteth, both in time and eternity.



For these times of worldly commotion, the concern still remains with us, that our brethren may be preserved from joining with any thing, that immediately or remotely conduces to promote it. And although <sup>of late</sup> we have, from year to year, testified our desire that Friends may take no part in that which genders strife; we still fear all are not sufficiently cautious, or sensible of the advantage of mixing as little as possible with the fluctuating politics of the times. For, truly, were all concerned to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, the mind would be preserved on its proper centre, and to mix with the multitude, in their pursuit of the favourite object of any party, would be dreaded rather than desired.

Respecting the Slave Trade, though we have no good tidings to proclaim, we feel unwilling to pass it over in silence. As a body we have been among the foremost to expose its turpitude; and although it doth not appear at present to be our duty to take any publick step as the advocates of this degraded class of our fellow creatures, we still continue to view the commerce with unremitting abhorrence: and we much desire that no one, once touched with a sense of their complicated woe, may suffer its being thus dreadfully protracted, to efface the impression from his memory, or sympathy from his heart.

This Meeting hath been very large, and our minds have <sup>been</sup> much exercised in a travail for the cause of Truth.

O Friends of every description, how would ye contribute, not only to your own peace as individuals, but to render our assemblies, under the sanction of the great Master, seasons of rejoicing, were ye all to be engaged in earnest, each one for himself, to do away the hurtful and binding things, which ye must be sensible, are yet to be found within our borders!

Finally, dear friends, remember the apostolick declaration, "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, 'The



Lord knoweth them that are his: Strive therefore to become such, by obedience to his holy law. It hath <sup>been</sup> our uniform and constant testimony, that God hath vouchsafed his grace and good Spirit unto the children of men universally, as the means of their sanctification. May ye therefore, in your several degrees of growth, evince and recommend your belief in it, by dwelling under its holy influence.

Again, in gospel affection, we salute you, and bid you farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting, by

Robert Fowler,

Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

An Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting for 1796

From Our Yearly Meeting for New-York & Parts adjacent held by adjournments from the 23<sup>d</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same Inclusive 1796.

To the next Yearly Meeting to be held on Rhode-Island

Dear Friends,

We have to acknowledge the fresh extension of Divine regard in this our Annual Assembly wherein, the weighty concerns of the Church have been transacted with much brotherly love & condescension, under a thankful sense of which, we salute you and acknowledge the Receipt of your acceptable Epistle of last Year. Which was read in this Meeting to our satisfaction, in which we observe an encouraging prospect that points to pious & guarded Education of the beloved Youth, and we earnestly desire that both you & us may be strengthened therein, Notwithstanding it remains to be sorrowfully the case that divers deficiencies & departures from a faithful support of our Christian Testimony in various branches are evi-



dent, we rejoice in finding the Labour extended by this Meeting last year for a reform in these particulars was received to general satisfaction, and a living remnant yet preserved who are earnestly engaged to repair the several breaches, we have been comforted at this time in the company of many faithful Labourers in the Vineyard from different parts, who have been favoured to impart many lively & weighty communications of suitable advice tending to strengthen the hands of the faithful & stir up a more lively engagement of the Lukewarm & indifferent among us, may the many repeated Invitations of Divine regard prove effectual to the gathering & firm establishment upon the sure Rock & Foundation Christ Jesus, Altho' it hath pleased our Heavenly Father to remove some who were Pillars in the Church from Works to Rewards, we are thankful in believing he is graciously pleased to preserve by his Power a remnant of faithful Standard bearers, and many of the younger Class manifesting a growth in the knowledge of the Blessed Truth, and thereby come forward in Religious usefulness, under a fence thereof, and the merciful continuance of Heavenly Love to us-ward we conclude,

Yours affectionate Friends & Brethren.  
Signed by order & on behalf of said Meeting  
By, George Brown. Clerk  
to the Meeting this Year.



# A Testimony of the Denial of Joseph Wing jun<sup>r</sup>

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at  
Richmond the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month 1796

Whereas Joseph Wing son of Joseph has had a Right  
of Membership amongst us but he has so far fallen  
short of the Good Order established amongst us that he  
has been accompanying on account of Marriage in a  
Disorderly manner with one not of our Society with  
whom he has since married and he has also appeared  
to have been guilty of using Profane Language for all  
which we have laboured to bring him to a sense of the  
evil thereof without the Desired Effect Therefore we  
have Disowned him as a Member until he shall return  
and make Satisfaction.

Signed on behalf of the said Meeting by  
Jas<sup>h</sup> Barrett Cl<sup>k</sup>

A Minute from the Meeting for Sufferings 12<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 1797

The Clerk is directed to forward a Copy of the following  
Minute to the Several Monthly Meetings

As the Valuable Journal of our beloved friend Job  
Scott Deaf is expected soon to be Printed to Contain  
about three hundred Octavo Pages Bound and Lettered  
the Price to be three Quarters of a Dollar each Monthly  
Meeting is desired to appoint a Suitable Person or Persons  
to Receive Subscriptions and forward to Moses Brown  
of Providence who has the care of forwarding the same to  
the Printer in New York, the Books to be forwarded to your  
Com<sup>tt</sup> as soon as may be. Copy extracted from the Minutes  
of a Meeting for Sufferings held at Summerset for New  
England the 12<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> Month 1797 By  
Sylvester Weekes Cl<sup>k</sup>



A Recommendation for raising £4. 19 towards defraying the  
Expences of Wickford Meeting House

The Representatives presented an apportionment  
of the 500 Dollars agreed to be raised towards defraying  
the expences of Wickford Meeting House.

The apportionment is as follows

Rhode Island	-	-	-	£ 35. 6. 6
Greenwich	-	-	-	17. 19. 8
Smithfield	-	-	-	17. 16. 5
Swansy	-	-	-	16. 10. -
Sto Kingston	-	-	-	15. 13. 6
Uxbridge	-	-	-	10. 13. -
Providence	-	-	-	23. 2. -
Richmond	-	-	-	4. 19. -

And the Clerk is appointed to furnish each Monthly  
Meeting with their proportion of 1<sup>st</sup> Sum together with  
a copy of Minute

Extracted from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting  
held at East Greenwich the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> month 1797  
by George Arnold C<sup>k</sup>



# An Epistle from Rhode-Island Yearly Meeting 1797

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on  
Rhode-Island for New England by adjournments from  
the 8<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> Month to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1797

To the Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging —

Dear Friends

Feeling our minds renewedly engaged for  
the promotion of the Cause of Righteousness in the  
several branches of our Religious Society, We affectionately  
salute you desiring your close attention to  
the several precious Testimonies given us to bear by  
the Holy Head of the Church. The various declensions  
thereupon manifested by your Answers to the Queries have  
painfully affected our Minds and has been Cause of  
Mourning & Heaviness of Heart.

And Dear Friends

you who are exercised in the management of the Affairs  
of the Church we tenderly exhort you to turn your Attention  
to the inspeaking word Christ in you the hope of Glory  
patiently waiting for his Instruction & diligently following  
the pointings of Truth in all your Religious Exercises  
whereby you will be enabled to labour rightly for the  
restoration of Backsliders and those who are careless &  
inattentive to their Souls Welfare. Be not superficial  
in your movements but weighty in your spirits both in  
Meetings & out of Meetings Chearfully giving up your  
services in fulfilling the duties allotted you. Carefull in  
your Example & that of your Families that others be-  
holding your Care & Exercise may be encouraged to follow  
you wherein you follow Christ. And let not the love  
of this World & the desire after Riches that are not



durable have place in your Minded to the weakning  
 the inward Man & obstructing your Growth & Estab-  
 lishment in the Truth, seek to abide in Humility  
 that you may be made Valiant in the Lords hand,  
 to promote the cleansing the Camp & preserving the Autho-  
 rity of our Discipline, more faithfulness amongst the vari-  
 ous Delinquents is necessary in much tenderness & Love,  
 and as you wait for the blessings of Holy help therein  
 you will be so instructed that your labours will prove  
 availing. Be ever watchful over those who give way to that  
 reproachful Practice of Sleeping in our Meetings, use freedom  
 & tenderness with them; persuading & encouraging to more  
 faithfull Exertions to overcome so shameful a Practice;  
 that by fasting & Prayer their Faith may be increased &  
 they quickened to usefulness in the Church. And as we have been  
 comforted in a hopefull Prospect among the Young & Rising  
 Generation in various parts of our Yearly Meeting we earnestly  
 entreat those who are the visited Children of the Lord that ye  
 give not back nor be dismayed altho' you may have none to look  
 unto, or lean upon but the Lord alone, trust in him who has  
 manifested his Love unto you, wait upon him for his divine  
 Influence, who will assuredly arise for your healing remembering  
 that in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. And we further  
 entreat all not to forsake assembling themselves together in our  
 Religious Meetings as the manner of some is, for what ground  
 have we to expect Divine Preservation in any allotment of Life  
 if we suffer our Business or a careless lukewarm disposition to  
 prevent attending to this important Concern of presenting our-  
 selves in due time Holy help to be enabled to perform acceptable  
 worship to that Divine Being whose due it is, & our most reason-  
 able duty. The Subject of making Just Wills having been weigh-  
 tily before this Meeting we are concerned to recommend the read-  
 ing of the Articles of Discipline upon this Subject in each of  
 our Quarterly Monthly & Preparative Meetings & a faithfull



Attention thereto is recommended. —

Signed in & by direction of said Meeting by  
 William Rotch Jr Clerk to  
 the Meeting this year  
 A true Copy In Behalf of the Committee

W<sup>m</sup> T. Hlocum

## Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes 1797

Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held  
 on Rhode Island for New England from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to  
 13<sup>th</sup> Same Inclusive 1797

1<sup>st</sup> The Subject of Education having again had the deliberate  
 Consideration of this Meeting we feel renewedly encouraged  
 to recommend to the Monthly Meetings who are not yet provi-  
 ded with Necessary Schools not to relax their Exertions to  
 accomplish that desirable object and that an account be again  
 sent up next year of the progress therein 2<sup>d</sup> It is concluded  
 that the Yearly Meeting begin with a meeting of Ministers and  
 Elders at Portsmouth on Rhode Island the Seven day after the  
 second Sixth day in the 6<sup>th</sup> month at the Ninth hour in the morn-  
 ing and the Publick Meetings for Worship to begin on first day  
 following both at Newport & Portsmouth at the tenth hour in  
 the morning and at the fourth hour in the afternoon the meet-  
 ing for business to begin at Newport at the ninth hour on 2<sup>d</sup> day  
 morning following 3<sup>d</sup> This Meeting having concluded to raise  
 four hundred Dollars Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting is  
 requested to forward to our Treasurer one hundred & Sixty Dol-  
 lars their proportion thereof

Copy Compared

W<sup>m</sup> Rotch Jun<sup>r</sup> Clerk

Richmonds Proportion of the above sum is five Dollars &  
 27 Cents. Examined by George Arnold Clerk of the Quarterly  
 Meeting



# A Certificate of Remove for Cyrel Gamsey & Four of his Children

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> M<sup>c</sup> 1790.

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Danby.

Dear Friends

Our Friend Cyrel Gamsey being about to Remove within the verge of your Meeting, he is a Member of our Society and also four of his Children viz. Miriam, John, Aaron, and Darius, he is of an orderly Life and Conversation and nothing has appeared but what he has settled his Affairs to Satisfaction with Desires for his Preservation and Growth we submit him and his Children to your Care and Oversight

Signed in and on behalf of Said Meeting

By Jacob Barrett Clerk

Rhoda Barrett Clerk

Nathan Shearman's Certificate for the purpose of Marriage

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond

Dear Friends Nathan Shearman having requested our Certificate to your Monthly Meeting for the purpose of Marriage with Lydia Bapel we therefore Certify on his behalf that he is a Member of our Society and on enquiry nothing appears but that he is Clear of Marriage engagement with us and hath had Consent of Parents

Given forth from our Monthly Meeting held at Smithfield 29<sup>th</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>c</sup> 1790

Signed By Walter Allen Clerk



# Marriage Certificate of Nathan Shearman

Nathan Shearman of Beltingham Son of Seth Shearman of said Beltingham in the County of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts & Mary his Wife & Lydia Basset Daughter of William Basset of Richmond in the County of Cheshire having declared their intentions of taking each other in Marriage before several Monthly Meetings of the People called Quakers in the County of Cheshire aforesaid according to the good Order used among them their proceedings after due enquiry & deliberate Consideration thereof were allowed by the said Meetings they appearing clear of all Others & having consent of Parents.

Now these are to certify all whom it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their <sup>said</sup> Intentions this Twentieth fifth day of the Fifth Month in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred & Ninety eight they the said Nathan Shearman & Lydia Basset appear at a Publick Assembly of the aforesaid People & others in their Meeting House in Richmond aforesaid & he the said Nathan Shearman taking the said Lydia Basset by the Hand did openly declare as followeth

Friends I take this my Friend Lydia Basset to be my wife promising through Divine Assistance to be unto her a loving & faithful Husband until it shall please the Lord by Death to separate us. And the said Lydia Basset did then & there in like Manner declare



as followeth Friends I take this my Friend Nathan Shearman to be my Husband promising through divine Assistance to be unto him a loving and faithfull wife until it shall please the Lord by Death to seperate us or Words of the like import.

And the said Nathan Shearman & Lydia Basset as a further confirmation thereof have hereunto set their Hands the after the Custom of Marriage assuming the Name of her Husband.

Nathan Shearman  
Lydia Shearman

And we whose names are hereunto  
Subscribed being present with others  
at the consummation of their said Mar-  
riage as Witnesses thereunto set our  
hands the Day & Year above written

Ruth Basset

Susanna Harkness

Rachel Thurber

Beulah Taber

Rhoda Barrett

Sarah Buffum

Susanna Taft

William Basset

Reuben Shearman

Cyrus Basset

Artemas Basset

Nathan Harkness

Isaac Barrett

Israhel Taber

George Harkness

Harris Aldrich

Wanton Aldrich

Jedediah Buffum

Paul Gillson

James Raymar

John Gorton



# Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes 1798

Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting for all New England held on Rhode Island by Adjournments from the 10<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1798 to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same Inclusive

By Reports from the Quarterly Meetings it appears that Friends have continued some attention to the subject of education and there still are Schools in several Meetings under the Government of Society but that the subject has not made much progress since last year. Friends are nevertheless affectionately desired as they regard the good of their Children to endeavour with renewed concern to promote the establishment of such Schools in order that their offspring may have the advantage of a Religious & guarded Education & render an account of the state of this concern to this Meeting next year.

The Committee appointed to consider of the subject of suspending the public Meetings preceeding the Quarterly Meeting and of the proposition from Rhode Island Quarter Propose that the subject at large be referred to next Yearly Meeting and that Rhode Island Quarter be left at liberty to make such alteration in the Time & Manner of holding there Quarterly Meetings for one year as may remedy the difficulty under which they labour which is accepted & the same thus disposed of accordingly.

The Representatives reported an Apportionment of the six hundred Dollars agreed to be raised as follows

Viz Rhode Island	240
Sandwich	240
Salem	80

Falmouth — 36 600 which is accepted and the Quarterly Meetings are desired to send their



proportions to the Treasurer and an acc<sup>t</sup> thereof to this Meeting next year.

The several Quarterly Meetings are desired to enter into a subscription in freedom to assist the Quarterly Meeting of Falmouth in building several Meeting Houses which they represent to this Meeting are necessary to be built to accomodate Friends who are not in circumstances to do it without assistance and send what they may raise to the Treasurer of that Quarterly Meeting and an acc<sup>t</sup> to this Meeting next year.

Extracted from the Minutes

W<sup>m</sup> Almy Ck to the Meet<sup>g</sup> this year.

Extracts from the Quarterly Meetings Minutes 8<sup>m</sup> 1798

Extracts of the Quarterly Meetings Minutes held at Portsmouth on & for Rhode Island the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> Month 1798

It appearing by the extracts of our last Yearly Meeting minutes that Meeting had left this Quarterly Meeting at liberty to make such alterations in respect to holding said Meeting as to them may appear necessary and this Meeting resuming the consideration thereof do agree that the Quarterly Meeting for business in the 10<sup>th</sup> month be held on fourth day preceeding the usual time of holding the Quarterly Meeting to begin at the Eleventh hour and that the Meeting for Worship be on fifth day as usually held heretofore

Richmonds proportion of Yearly Meeting Stock as agreed on by the Representatives present is ten Dollars and for Quarter Meeting Stock a fine Dollars & ninety six cents

Examined by George Arnold Ck



# Marriage Certificate of Silas Boyce

Silas Boyce of Richmond Son of Paul Boyce of said Richmond in the County of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire and Hannah his Wife and Comfort Allen Daughter of Moses Allen of said Richmond and Comfort his Wife having declared their Intentions of taking each other in Marriage before several Monthly Meetings of the People called Quakers in the County of Cheshire according to the good Order among them their Proceedings after due Enquiry and deliberate Consideration thereof were allowed by the Said Meeting they appearing clear of all others and having Consent of Parents and others concerned.

Now these are to certify all whom it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their said Intentions this Twenty ninth day of the Eleventh Month in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and Ninety Eight they the said Silas Boyce and Comfort Allen appeared at a publick Assembly of the aforesaid People and others in their Meeting House at Richmond and he the said Silas Boyce taking the said Comfort Allen by the Hand did openly declare as followeth Friends I take this my Friend Comfort Allen to be my Wife promising through Divine Assistance to be unto her a Loving and Faithful Husband until it shall please the Lord by Death to separate us and the said Comfort Allen did then and there in like manner declare as followeth Friends I take this my Friend Silas Boyce to be my Husband promising through Divine Assistance to be unto him a Loving and Faithful



Wife until it shall please the Lord by Death to separate us or words of the like import and the Said Silas Boyce and Comfort Allen as a further Confirmation thereof have hereunto set their hands She after the Custom of Marriage assuming the name of her Husband

Silas Boyce

Comfort Boyce

And we whose names are hereunto subscribed being present with others at the Consumation of their said Marriage as Witnesses thereunto set our hands the day and Year above written

Moses Allen

Rezia Allen

Nathan Boyce

Rachel Allen

Jacob Boyce

Hannah Bowen

Abraham Allen

Abigail Emerson

Jerahmeel Allen

Martha Bowen

Moses Allen jr

Margaret Allen

Samuel Gaskill

Siene Gaskill

Moses Emerson

Susanna Harkness

Reuben Bowen

Bulah Sabin

Zephaniah Bowen

Ezek Buffum

Jedidiah Buffum

Nathan Harkness

Israel Sabin

Wm Basset

Paul Handy

Nathaniel East

John Gorton

Ezra Mann

James Raymer



A Paper relating to the Division of Uxbridge & Richmond Monthly Meetings with the Answer

We of the Committee appointed to settle with Richmond Monthly Meeting inform you that Uxbridge Monthly Meeting agree to let Richmond Monthly Meeting have £50. 7. 10 it being a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Rachel Shayers Donation and one  $\frac{1}{3}$  Part of the Books that belong to Uxbridge Monthly Meeting and we are desired to call for the Remaining part of the Donation which is in Jaazaniah Bartletts and Israel Sabins hands and we desire you to attend to the matter as soon as can be made Convenient

Leicester 3 of the fifth Month 1795 Marm<sup>d</sup> Earle

Antipas Earle

From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond 23<sup>d</sup> of 7. M<sup>o</sup> 1795  
to the Monthly Meeting of Uxbridge

Beloved Friends We rec<sup>d</sup> a Paper at this Meeting signed Marmaduke Earle & Antipas Earle informing that Uxbridge Monthly Meeting had agreed to let Richmond Monthly Meeting have £50. 7. 10 of Rachel Shayers Donation & one third of the Books, they also inform that they were desired to call for the remaining part of the Money in Jaaz<sup>h</sup> Bartletts and Israel Sabins hands desiring us to attend thereto as soon as convenient. In Answer to which we may inform that on the reading said Paper our Committee presented the Report signed by both Committees (which Report we herewith send) which being acceptable to us and appearing the most regular Method of settling do therewith concur if it may be agreeable to you & so therefore herewith forward said report for your Consideration & concurrence if agreeable. As to the Request or Call for Money in the hands of two of our Members We apprehend that such matters are not of such a Nature as to come under our Notice unless upon their proving slack & Delinquent our labour becomes necessary

Signed in & by Order of said Meeting

By Jaaz<sup>h</sup> Bartlett Clerk



A Certificate of Removal for Levy Moory & his Wife  
from Danby Monthly Meeting

To Richmond Monthly Meeting

After our Salutation of love we hereby inform that  
Levy Moory and Rachel his wife Seasonably informed  
us of their prospects of removing to your parts, the neces-  
sary care being taken, these may certify on their behalf  
that they are members of our Society and also in a good  
degree of orderly lives and conversation Likewise diligent  
attenders of meeting while among us and has settled his  
outward affairs to Satisfaction as far as appears.

these being the needful we Conclude and remain your  
friends Brethren and Sisters

Signed in and on behalf of our Monthly Meeting held  
at Danby on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> of 2 month 1799 by

Abraham Staples

Doreas Staples

Willard Aldrich's Certificate of Removal

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at  
Uxbridge the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 11 Month 1799

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond  
Dear Friends

Willard Aldrich having removed from  
us within the verge of your Meeting & hath requested  
our Certificate these may certify on his behalf that he  
is a member of our Society and on enquiry do not find  
but his affairs are settled to Satisfaction & is clear of  
marriage engagements among us as such we recommend  
him to your watchful care. Signed in & on behalf of  
the abovesaid Monthly Meeting

By Moses Farnum Clk.



John Gortons Certificate of Removal to East hoosock  
 To the Monthly Meeting at East hoosock  
 Beloved Friends

John Gorton being about to  
 Remove with his family from us to you These may  
 Certify on behalf of himself his Wife Susanna &  
 their Youngest Son Joshua that <sup>they</sup> are Members in Unity  
 with us & of Orderly <sup>Lives</sup> & Conversations and it appears  
 that they have Settled their Affairs to Satisfaction  
 & as Such we Recommend them to your Christian  
 Care & Oversight & in Love Remain Your Friends  
 & Brethren. Signed in and By Order of Men &  
 womens Meetings 20<sup>th</sup> of 2<sup>d</sup> M<sup>o</sup> By  
 Jaazaniah Barrett Clerk  
 Rhoda Barrett Clerk

Richard Emersons Certificate of Removal to Quemans  
 Patent

From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond  
 in New England the 19<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1800

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Quemans  
 Patent in the State of New York

Beloved Friends In Love we salute you & inform  
 that Richard Emerson sometime past informed us that  
 he had a Prospect of removing to the Westward & request  
 ed our Certificate for himself his Wife Mary & two of  
 their Children viz Rhoda & Richard.

These may therefore Certify on their behalf that  
 they were Members in Unity with us of Steady &  
 regular lives & Conversations & as Steady attenders of  
 Meetings as their Situations & Circumstances would  
 admit living about thirty miles distant & have settled  
 their outward affairs to Satisfaction as far as appears



And with desires for their preservation & growth in the  
 Truth we recommend them to your Christian Care &  
 oversight  
 Signed in & by order of our said Mens & Womens  
 Meeting

By { James Raymar Clerk  
 for the Day  
 Lucy Switchel Clerk  
 for the Day

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1797

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London  
 by Adjournments from the 22<sup>d</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of the Fifth Month  
 1797 To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends  
 in Great Britain Ireland and elsewhere

Dear Friends

We are sensible that there are among you who  
 travail with us in spirit for the advancement of the  
 cause of Truth and we believe that this concern is  
 increasing in divers places. Nevertheless as at these  
 seasons of general inspection our minds continue to  
 be impressed with a sense that cautions are still  
 needful in several particulars. we think it right still  
 to endeavour to excite you to farther degrees of dedica-  
 tion to the service in which according to their measures  
 all ought to be engaged. If one be our Master even  
 Christ remember that <sup>in</sup> his family there is no place  
 for the slothful. Accept therefore with this our salu-  
 tation of brotherly love our exhortation to be willing  
 individually to inquire, What lack I yet.

We have this year received Epistles from all the  
 Yearly Meetings of Friends in America and also



some verbal accounts given by brethren who have been travelling in the service of the gospel on the Continent of Europe in some parts of which the same divine Hand which led our predecessors out of forms to the substance of Christianity appears to be collecting a people to bear witness to the saving efficacy of the light of Christ revealed in the heart.

The amount of sufferings reported to have <sup>been</sup> sustained by our Friends of this island is Eight Thousand and Twenty two Pounds that in Ireland One Thousand Three Hundred and Forty seven Pounds. These are principally for Tithes, Priests demands, and those called Church rates and increased again ~~this~~ this year by distraints on account of the rate for raising men for the army and navy and the militia. On this last account also one friend hath been not long since committed for three months to the county gaol at York and another last summer was detained a like term in that at Worcester. Of the prisoners at York on account of our testimony against an hireling ministry one has been released by death the rest still remain prisoners.

On considering the state of our Society several defects occur for in a people professing as we do indeed in all who assume the Christian name it is a defect not to avoid every thing which tends to evil and to bring reproach on their profession. Of this kind is the want of punctuality in the fulfilling of engagements of which we understand there are some instances but if all were sufficiently sensible of the injustice of the practice, of the disgrace with which it is attended and what an occasion



of stumbling it may be to those who are enquiring after the way of Truth it would surely preserve them from inadvertently forming engagements which they were not clear that they were able to fulfil. The same care of preserving our profession from reproach might also if kept in the remembrance prevent another evil of which we have at this time some account namely the unnecessary frequenting of publick houses. We desire that all under our name may be cautious of remaining in them after the purpose of business or of refreshment is accomplished but to make them a resort for any other purpose may it never need to be named among a people who profess the practice of Christian sobriety.

We are not disposed to enter into all the particulars of deviation in which those who will not submit to be bound by the testimony of Truth in their hearts may be found but we think we can trace several of them to that common but destructive cause the love of worldly things. In some it discovers itself in a desire to be rich and great whilst in others the worldly spirit is as clearly discerned though the attention seems to be occupied in smaller concerns and though we are clear that very extensive ones are often in themselves great evils yet the trafficker in hundreds unless the eye be kept single may be as much buried in the earth as the trafficker in thousands. But were each honestly to ask himself the Question. Have I first sought the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness how might the answer tend to cover the face with confusion Did our Lord utter any one precept with a clearer address to the reason and greater promise of support than that of which such a question is the substance So that to seek first the world is to give up at once our obedience to his commands



with our trust in his promise. All these things shall be added unto you. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

We are not about to condemn industry which we believe to be not only praise-worthy but indispensable. It is the desire of great things and the engrossment of the time and attention from which we desire that all our dear friends may be redeemed. We doubtless owe duties to ourselves and to our families but we owe them also to society and do we not owe even our selves to our allwise allprotecting and provident Creator Should we therefore <sup>suffer</sup> the things of this world to prevent our attending at the times appointed for his worship whether on the day generally set apart for that purpose or on other stated days of the week, and ought we to be content when assembled to permit our thoughts to wander into the concerns of the present life.

The situation of the offspring and of the servants of those who neglect the due attendance of our religious Meetings is greatly to be lamented as is that even of some who though frequently seen at them do not by their conduct seem to believe that it is required of them to allow their dependants also to attend but are leaving these still to pursue the world for them at home. For if any have in a greater or less degree made gold their hope or have said to the fine gold thou art my confidence" it will be found that in proportion they will be slack in bringing their families to our accustomed opportunities for publick worship.

We feel not inclined though war yet continues to desolate the earth to repeat our advices on that head or to resume the subject further than to remark how thankful we ought to be in that we are still permitted to meet together as we have done at this time in brotherly fellowship and mutual condescension whilst the world around us is tossed with the tempest of discord.



O Friends may we consider it as an incitement to suffer every thing which tends to contention to be eradicated from our hearts and under the influence of the heavenly Husbandman to cultivate with unwearied assiduity and patience all those dispositions which make for peace things whereby we may edify one another yea things by which we may evince to our fellow-men at large that we are really redeemed from the spirit of contests and truly the disciples of a merciful Redeemer whose holy pure and undefiled religion is a system of universal love.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by  
Joseph Gibbins

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1790

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London by Adjournments from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of the Fifth Month 1790 inclusive

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great Britain Ireland and elsewhere.

Dear Friends

Among other advantages which we find in thus assembling ourselves before the Lord it is none of the least that our love for the members of his mystical body the church receives from time to time a renewal of holy fervour with ardent desire that she may increase in qualification to be presented to him a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing may we Friends as a part thereof through the grace



which is given us be willing to cleanse our selves from every pollution of flesh and spirit and to become holy in all manner of conversation.

We have no new doctrines to communicate. Happy yea blessed should we be could every man find a testimony in his conscience that he acted consistently with those he hath already received but still it remains our concern to stir up the pure mind in each other and to press the observance of those things which appear to be neglected. And how shall we find any subject of greater moment whereon to renew the often call to vigilance than that leading duty of public worship and of seeking the recruits of strength and of confidence to persevere in the way of peace which the mind may experience in the humble performance of this solemn obligation. None of the negligent can say he has no need of the support yet too many may seem by their conduct to indicate that they think so. But Friends review the subject let not an evil habit prevail but suffer your selves to be weaned from it. Make the essay of a better practice and you will find to your comfort that difficulties will often sink as you approach.

Every step which we gain in the way of obedience to duty is not only of advantage to our selves but it gives additional strength and animation to be beneficial to others.

By this means alone can the parent the guardian or the master hope to discharge his important and awful trust to the lambs committed to his care in the wilderness of this world. And what need there is of seeking all means of qualification to be helpful to them the dangers of that wilderness and the failure of many who are



entrusted with the charge too obviously declare.

We fear that in many instances an early and frequent perusal of the Scriptures of truth and opportunities of quiet ~~of~~ retirement in families before the Lord are neglected whilst <sup>amusements</sup> not suited to the condition of a candidate for immortality and writings inimical to the simplicity of the Gospel are indulged or connived at.

We fear also that some of our Youth are training in in habits of expence in attire, furniture, and attendance, which growing into custom are not only inconsistent with the simplicity of the gospel but a constant call for much of that property which would be better employed in feeding the hungry and of that time which might be occupied in visiting and cheering the habitations of humane misery. The trimming of the vain world said our worthy elder William Penn would sotle the naked one. It is not however with such only that we plead on behalf of the indigent. We wish those who are generally consistent in appearance and manners with our self-denying profession to be clear that a due proportion of their time and substance is spent in the relief of distress. This is a day when thousands of our fellow creatures are wanting the necessaries of the body and thousands imbibing with avidity principles injurious to the mind. Happy will it be on a parting retrospect to believe that we have neither contributed by misapplication of our entrusted property to the one nor omitted to do all in our power to prevent the baneful spread of the other. Christ is all in Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and the observance of his law written on the heart



would restore perfect harmony to the universe.

We have at this meeting received as usual accounts of the sufferings of our members. The whole amount in Great Britain is upwards of £10,300 chiefly for tithes and ~~those called~~ those called church-rates but including about £2000. for military purposes. The amount of those reported from Ireland is £785. The Friend imprisoned last year at York on account of the militia was released at the expiration of his term and the remaining prisoners on account of tithes by a special clause for that purpose in an act of parliament by virtue of which distrainments were made on their effects. Three other Friends were near the end of last year committed to Huntingdon gaol by Exchequer process on account of tithes and afterwards for a short time to the Fleet prison but were released on the issuing of a writ of sequestration.

We have received Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of Virginia of Maryland of Pennsylvania of New York and of New England Among other concerns of Friends on the Continent that for the violated rights of our fellow-men of the African race still continues.

Our Meeting for Sufferings here also lately presented in the name of the Society a third petition to the House of Commons on the subject of the British traffick in the persons of men Its failure of success is well known but we see no reason to be discouraged from again becoming publick advocates of the Africans when a sense of duty shall open the way.

We desire afresh to press upon all our members the necessity of a peaceful and innocent demeanour amongst men and especially let all be careful not



to seek or accept profit by any concern in the preparations so extensively making for war for how reproachfully inconsistent would it be to refuse an active compliance with warlike measures and at the same time not to hesitate to enrich our selves by the commerce and other circumstances dependant on war.

Finally dear Friends let us bear in constant remembrance that important principle of our profession a testimony to the pure and free ministry of the gospel of Christ whose sole prerogative it is to send and qualify such as it pleases him without respect to worldly rank or humane acquirements and all his truly devoted servants whatever may be their gifts and stations in the church are brethren and hold them under him the only head and the universal and all-sufficient teacher.

We salute you in gospel love and remain your affectionate friends and brethren.

signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by  
Joseph Birkbeck

Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

Extracts from the Meeting for Sufferings. Minutes 10 M<sup>o</sup> 1799 respecting moving some Indians

The circumstances of the Indians tribes within this Yearly Meeting having been recommended by the Yearly Meeting to the care of this Meeting and the following circumstance and transaction having been minuted at our last Yearly Meeting viz<sup>t</sup> John Hammer one of the native Indians of the Narragansett Tribe having attended at the



close of our last Meeting and laid before the Members then present a proposal which he and some others of that Tribe had of removing to Oniada where provision is made of Land for them - and W<sup>m</sup> Knowles and Thomas Wilber being then desired to enquire into their Characters and situation and report to this Meeting - And they having reported that five families who propose removing are of reputable Characters and that the said John Hammer is now a prisoner for Debt which arose from his purchasing a Horse which he lost by Death the cost of which action being paid vizt eleven Dollars, he might be liberated and return to his Family - Whereupon W<sup>m</sup> Knowles Thomas Wilber & Thomas Howland are appointed to pay that Sum for his liberation and to make estimation of the expence of the removal of those Families & report to our next Meeting when a Subscription may be opened for Friends liberality.

The Committee made the following report vizt  
 Agreeable to our appointment we have had an opportunity with most of the heads of the Indian Families which are about to remove to the Oniada and find that one of them has sufficient to furnish himself with a Team to carry his Goods & Family the other four will not have much if any thing left when their Debts are paid except what household furniture they will want to carry with them which with such of their Families as will want to ride make about thirty hundred weight - and we estimate the cost of a Team sufficient to carry that weight and their expences on the road at one hundred & eighty Dollars - which being considered is accepted and Friends are desired to subscribe in their freedom to raise two hundred Dollars for the purposes therein expressed and forward the same to this Meeting



in the first Month next - And if Friends Subscription exceeds the sum proposed it will be reserved and appropriated to the same benevolent purposes towards the Indians - And the Clerk is directed to send a Copy of this minute to each Monthly Meeting.

Extracted from the minutes of a Meeting for Sufferings held at Smithfield the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1799

W<sup>m</sup> Almy Clk

Recommendations from the Meeting for Sufferings with regard to the Massachusetts militia act

From our Meeting for Sufferings held at Providence for New-England the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> Month 1800

To the Monthly Meetings of Friends in the State of Massachusetts and others who have Members in that State.

The additional act of the State of Massachusetts to the militia law having been laid before this Meeting and considered and this Meeting being well satisfied of the favourable intentions of that government to exempt our Society from military duty the act in some respects may not wholly correspond with the prospect of Friends. A concern hath arisen in this Meeting that the act as it respects our members be complied with with that care and caution becoming us as a people. We therefore recommend to Monthly Meetings to be careful in their appointments of such in whom confidence appears to be especially placed by the law and a concern is also prevalent amongst us that such as are on these appointments and indeed all who are the objects of the law that they may renewedly seek after centre to and abide under the Spirit of the Prince of Peace in themselves that we as a people may be preserved faithful to this holy profession. For if any of our members should be found in a line of conduct that might invalidate the certificate which the law requires great reproach must consequently fall on Friends and the cause of truth itself suffer. We intreat therefore dear



Friends that no certificates be given to any of our members of whom the overseers may not be satisfied that <sup>they</sup> are principled with us against wars and fightings agreeably to the certificate required and on adverting to the concern of this Meeting in the year 1777 at a time of deep trial and probation during the late war in this country when exemptions from military requisitions were obtained from the legislature of Rhode-Island upon certificates being produced of the right of membership and feeling the like concern at this time we think it may <sup>be</sup> useful to revive it vizt. "Let it be remembered Friends that if we give certificates to any whose life and conversation do not well answer to our profession we must bear the reproach and shall mar our reputation as a Society. Therefore dear Friends let there be great care to inspect the conduct of such as require certificates and also their principle respecting war and we desire that none may be granted to any others but such who are of sober lives and conversation and who are clear in our ancient testimonies against wars and fightings and that we may with renewed engagement attend to exercise the discipline established amongst us in the same wisdom that was the source thereof by which wrong things may be swept out of the camp and we become a clean people to the praise of him that hath called us and our own unspeakable advantage."

Signed in and on Behalf of our Meeting aforesaid

William Almy Clerk



# A Testimony of the Denial of Alfred Saben

From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond the 21<sup>st</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> Month 1800.

Whereas Alfred Saben hath had a right of membership amongst us but by not attending to the pure Principle which we make profession of, hath contracted and Consummated Marriage with one not of our Society, for which we have laboured with him for his Restoration without the desired Effect Therefore we have Disowned him as a Member until he shall see his misstep and return and make Satisfaction.

Signed in and by order of said Meeting

By Jacob Barrett Clerk

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1799

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London by Adjournments from the 22<sup>d</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Month 1799 inclusive.

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great Britain and Ireland

Dear Friends

After some serious investigation into the present state of our religious Society, wherein we humbly trust that the gracious Head of the Church hath not been wanting to cement our minds in the bond of his love, and from time to time to refresh us together, we again salute you, and inform you, that at this our large annual assembly, a concern has been felt extending to every branch of the family. We desire it may be bound up in the same precious cementing



union, that so not any thing which has a tendency to scatter may be suffered to prevail. To this end, may it be the chief care of all, to dwell near the Power by the assistance of which un sanctified self is reduced and denied: then will the wisdom which is from above be exalted and brought into dominion.

The accounts of sufferings brought up this year from the various parts of this nation amount to seven thousand four hundred and seventy eight Pounds and those from Ireland to seven hundred and seventy one Pounds, chiefly for Tithes Priests demands and those called Church Rates and also for various demands on account of the Militia, and other warlike measures with which from a conviction that we ought not to be active in promoting the destruction of the precious yea invaluable lives of mankind, we scruple to comply.

We have this year received Epistles from four only of the Yearly Meetings on the American continent namely the Carolinas &c Virginia Maryland and Pennsylvania. The last having met at the usual time of its sitting during the prevalence of a contagious and highly mortal fever adjourned to the Twelfth Month last. By this disease the <sup>lives</sup> ~~lives~~ of the inhabitants of Philadelphia were quickly removed out of time. Let us in reverence of soul avoid too nice an enquiry into the moral causes of such dreadful calamities but seek with unremitting solicitude an entrance through the strait gate into that narrow but untrodden path which alike leads to blessedness through every dispensation of the Lords unerring Providence.

Friends we in this land do not live unsurrounded by manifold dangers nor in an age in which we



can dispense with any part of the whole armour of light. The increase of mortality in a country brings the body into jeopardy but it often awakes the careless and drives the awakened mind into closer communion with God. But it is the peculiar property of many of the contagious vices and vanities with which these countries abound that they lull to security the incautious even though once aroused and point their infection at the well being of the soul.

By what means <sup>then</sup> shall we expect preservation. Our belief dear friends is that it will depend on a frequent recurrence to our first principle even to the saving power of Christ Jesus our Lord revealed in the heart. This said our Redeemer when personally on earth is life eternal to know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. But this friend is no trivial nor momentary acquirement. Many of you know that it must be rooted fast in singleness of heart. ~~and that the~~ and that the important pursuit of this heavenly knowledge should regulate the tenor of our lives. Where then judge ye would any find leisure for those amusements in which some in profession with us are reported to waste much of their time. This meeting has repeatedly testified against vain sports and places of diversion as so many allurements tending to draw the mind from its watch and to lay it open to further temptation. The best recreation for a Christian is the relief of distress and his chief delight to promote the knowledge and to exalt the glory of his Heavenly Master, and this is most effectually done under his holy influence by a life of faith, purity and general benevolence. False



principles too as well as wrong practices may have their advocates for a time. but the unspotted lives of the faithful remain to be their best refutation. Let none then start aside at the magnitude of the object or be too much dismayed because of the little progress they seem to themselves to make in the way of holiness but trusting in the Lord who giveth power to the faint. let us all press after ability to comply with the apostolic advice Be ye holy in all manner of conversation.

We have received accounts this year as well as in preceding years that divers persons have joined our Society by conviction. For you of this description we feel a tender care that after admittance into membership you may not measure your selves by the standard of others nor take up a rest short of the true rest. Seek rather an increase in the heavenly principle which comes by Jesus Christ the true and holy pattern for his flock. Thus only will your union with us contribute to your advantage and thus only will the increase of numbers produce an increase of joy.

Now turning our attention to the church in its more collected capacity of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings we perceive that weakness and languor continue to pervade the deliberations of some of them on the important concerns of the Society. and often prevent the due and timely support of that Christian discipline which we have long experienced to be under Providence as a wall of preservation. Nevertheless we believe we can also discern that there is a gradual increase of care in many places and that the quickened sensibility with which the minds of numbers of our brethren are graciously induced has rendered many things burdensome which in times of greater negligence scarcely have been noticed and to this we attribute many



of the complaints now contained in the answers to the queries Our desire therefore is that such upright minds may be encouraged to persevere. That which shows the disease must be looked to for the remedy.

Hold on then your way beloved friends and may the Lord give you all the discernment, skill, forbearance and fortitude which are requisite for the impartial and seasonable discharge of the trust which he commits to you.

Finally friends collectedly and individually farewell may all our Meetings be held with weight as in the immediate presence of the heavenly President

May the aged among us be examples of every Christian virtue and evince by the calmness of their evening that their day has been blest. May the middle aged not faint in their allotted stations but together with their eldest and youngest brethren firmly support yea exalt the several testimonies which we are called to maintain. And O may the beloved youth the tender objects of our care and of our hope bend early and cheerfully under the forming power of Truth that thus each standing in his allotment the harmony of the building may be preserved and we may truly grow up into an holy temple for the Lord.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting

George Stacey Clerk



A Certificate of Removal for Asa Aldrich and Family

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Saratoga State of New York

Esteemed Friends

Asa Aldrich being about to remove has requested a Certificate of removal to Palmyra for himself & family within the verge of your Monthly Meeting whose names are Susanna his wife his Children Winton, Asa, Jabez, & Susanna, who are members of our Society & as such we recommend them to your Christian Care & Oversight, nothing appears but that he has settled his outward matters to good Satisfaction.

From Richmond New-Hampshire Monthly Meeting of Friends held the 22<sup>d</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1801

Jacozanah Barrett Clerk

Rhoda Barrett Clerk

A Certificate of Removal for Harris Aldrich

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Saratoga State of New-York

Esteemed Friends

Harris Aldrich having removed to Palmyra within the verge of your Monthly Meeting & has requested our Certificate therefore these are to certify that he is a Member of our Society & nothing appears but that he has settled his outward affairs to good Satisfaction among us as such we recommend him to your Christian Care & Oversight desiring his growth in the Truth.

From the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond in the State of New-Hampshire the 22<sup>d</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> month 1801

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by

Jacozanah Barrett Clerk

Rhoda Barrett Clerk



Extracts of the Yearly Meeting 1800 & of the Quarterly Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> mo 1800

At a Yearly Meeting of friends held at Rhode-Island for New England from the 15<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1800

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having reported that they apprehended a division of that meet<sup>g</sup> into two Quarterly Meetings would be of advantage but not proposing a line of division and the subject not appearing sufficiently ripe to decide upon at this time Jeremiah

Caleb Green of Bedford W<sup>m</sup> Macey John Bailey Jos<sup>ph</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Anthony John Taber & Sam Collins are appointed to visit that meeting and the several Monthly Meetings of which it is composed and report their sense & judgment to this Meeting next Year both respecting the division of the line thereof including the times & places of holding s<sup>d</sup> Meeting and any other matters appertaining thereto if a division of s<sup>d</sup> Quarterly Meet<sup>g</sup> should appear eligible to them.

It is agreed by this Yearly meeting that the present state of education of the rising generation among Friends calls loudly for their renewed engagement & more serious attention that one School at least <sup>shd</sup> to be set up within every Monthly Meeting belonging to this Yearly Meeting to be under the care and direction of the Monthly Meeting and to be adapted as suitably as may be to the situation and number of children and to the ability of Friends in each Meeting and it is further recommended that any Monthly Meet<sup>g</sup> who upon due and weighty consideration shall apprehend that they are not of ability of themselves to set up a School that they recommend and open a subscription toward the setting up and supporting a School & that they up an account of their proceedings therein with



the amount of their subscriptions to the Quarterly Meet<sup>g</sup> to which they belong which Quarterly Meet<sup>g</sup> is desired to aid such Monthly Meet<sup>g</sup> in setting up Schools by their advice & assistance which Quarterly Meeting may nevertheless if they judge it most conducive to the end in view join two or more Monthly meetings in the Maintenance and support of a Common School and if more assistance shall be needed from any Quarterly Meet<sup>g</sup> than they are able to defray without unreasonable burthening themselves that such Quarterly Meet<sup>g</sup> make application to our next Yearly Meet<sup>g</sup> carefully sending up an account of their proceedings with the amount of the assistance afforded to any meeting or meetings within the same with the amount of the sums over what they may have discharged or may feel themselves of ability & freedom to discharge to the intent that this Meeting may take measures in order to discharge the same and the several Quarterly & Monthly Meet<sup>g</sup> are desired to pay particular regard to our Discipline respecting Schools.

And the Meeting for Sufferings are desired to take into their consideration the subject of Friends proportion of the publick Taxes for the support of Schools & to take such measures for obtaining the same for the support of Friends Schools as way may open & they may think best and that any Monthly Meeting who may see their way clear may in the mean time be at liberty to apply to the authority of the Town or Towns wherein their Members live for the same.

And Friends are desired to send an Acc<sup>t</sup> of their progress in this important Concern to our next Yearly Meeting.

This Meeting Concludes to raise five Hundred Dollars to Supply the Treasury for the Year ensuing of which Rhode Island Quarterly Meetings Proportion is Two Hundred Dollars. Extracted from the Minutes of the Meeting afores. W<sup>m</sup> Almy Clerk to the Meet<sup>g</sup> this Year  
Coburn



At a Quarterly Meeting held at Smithfield for Rhode-  
Island the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> mo 1800

The above Extracts from our last Yearly meet<sup>g</sup> was  
rec<sup>d</sup> & read at this time and claimed the solid attention  
of this Meeting & each Monthly Meeting is requested to  
pay suitable attention thereto. Elisha Thornton, Richard  
Morry, Sylvester Weeks, Benj<sup>a</sup> Isaac Tho<sup>s</sup> Watson Moses  
Brown, John Foster, Israel Sabin, & Sam<sup>l</sup> Thurston  
are appointed a Committee of this meet<sup>g</sup> to aid and as-  
ist the Monthly meet<sup>g</sup> as way may open and to report to  
this meet<sup>g</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> mo next

The apportionment of this & the Yearly meet<sup>g</sup> Stock  
is left for the Clerk & assistant to apportion as heretofore  
and transmit to each Monthly Meeting

Richmond Monthly meet<sup>g</sup> proportion of Yearly  
Meetings Stock is Eight Dollars & their proportion of  
this meet<sup>g</sup> Stock is four Dollars.

Extracted from the Minutes of a Quarterly  
meet<sup>g</sup> held as aforesaid  
by Obad<sup>h</sup> Brown Clk

A Certificate of Removal for Enoch Southwick and  
family from Bolton Monthly Meeting.

From our Monthly Meeting held at Bolton the  
2<sup>d</sup> of 2<sup>d</sup> mo 1801 To the Monthly Meeting at Richmond  
Dear Friends

Enoch Southwick a member of our meeting informed  
us that he expected to remove within the verge of your  
meeting and requested our Certificate for himself and  
family these are to certify on their behalf that they  
are members of our Society their lives and conversa-  
tions are in a good degree orderly are Steady atten-

ders of our meetings has settled their out. affairs to Satisfaction as far as appears. his Wifes name is Mary who has been a Useful Exemplary member amongst us Childrens names are Cinthe, Nancy, Betsey, Abigail Jesse, Stephen, Hannah, Mary, Elisebeth, Enoch and Huldey.

Signed by order of said meeting by

Abel Houghton Clerk  
Mary Watson Clerk

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1800

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London by adjournments from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of the Fifth Month 1800 inclusive

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great Britain Ireland and elsewhere

Dear Friends

A Religious concern still attends our minds that ye our dear absent brethren may partake of the benefit and blessing of our thus assembling together not only by means of such regulations as have been found expedient but that we may convey to you through this our affectionate salutation the Desire which the collected body feels for you as for it self that we may all be what we profess that we may all daily look to our foundations and be fervent in our prayers for an establishment upon that Rock against which every storm will beat in vain. In the renewings therefore of that love which knows no abatement from length of time but through all ages remains the same in the hearts of believers in the love of



the gospel of Christ Jesus our Redeemer we tenderly salute you.

The accounts of sufferings brought in this year chiefly for tithes & tithes demands and those called Church Rates also for military purposes amount in Great Britain to Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety one Pounds and in Ireland to Six Hundred and Three Pounds.

Epistles have been received this year from all the yearly Meetings on the American continent and accounts from our several Quarterly Meetings and from Ireland. Having in the last mentioned communications a view of the present state of the Society in these Nations we find cause to continue to stir up your pure mind by way of remembrance that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and of the commandment of the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.

We beseech you brethren be watchful Keep in the holy inclosure of the preserving fear of God and call to mind the perfect security of Israel encamped of old under his never failing protection when the intended curses of an enemy were converted into blessings. He with whom we have to do is the same yesterday to day and for ever. Why then are we not kept in his fear and made perfect in his love Is it not because the visible things of this fading state are in various ways and proportions drawing away our attention But Friends enter from time to time into the closet shut to the door pray to your Father who seeth in secret for daily supplies of strength



to suppress that immoderate love of earthly things which prevents you from giving to him his due pre-eminence:

They who are obedient to this universal injunction of <sup>our</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> Watch are prepared for the due fulfilling of every duty and eminently so for that most essential one of Worship. How many feel themselves languid when assembled for this solemn purpose for want of a previous preparation of heart. The mind crowded with thoughts on outward things in approaching the place for public worship and resuming them with avidity on its return is not likely to fill up the interval to profit and to such their meeting together may prove a form as empty as any of those but of which we believe Truth called our forefathers and still calls us. If we truly succeed them as witnesses for the Truth we must <sup>look</sup> beyond forms to that which is the life of all true religious performances so we may become fitted in our several stations for the Lords service the promotion of the cause of righteousness on earth.

Dear Friends we believe there are many of you and especially of the Youth who in a good degree have given up and are giving up your hearts to serve the Lord May you submit with patience to all the repeated baptisms necessary for your refinement. The gospel hath its tribulations but they are not the sorrow of the world which worketh death. They are intended to disturb the polluted rest in mere worldly enjoyments they unite you to the living members of Christs body in whom the same things have been accomplished and if they be accepted as tokens of his love and abode under the allotted time without repining they will completely unite you to him the Holy Head. Wherefore ye dearly beloved youth our



treasure in whom we sometimes dare to delight and to hope that you will one day succeed to the places of those faithful labourers who have passed and are passing from works to rewards we entreat you dear children with tender solicitude we press it upon you flee from every thing that tends to despoil you of your innocence and to render your minds less receptive of that holy influence which your enlightened judgment demonstrates to be truth.

And ye parents be ye solicitous to discharge your important and awful duty with scrupulous attention. It is often too late to warn the youthful mind of danger when your own negligence or indulgence hath suffered your offspring to deviate from that path of simplicity in which you have thought your selves bound to walk and in which you have found peace. If you fail to suppress the early beginnings of undue liberty how can you expect a blessing on your endeavours when further deviations at length arouse your attention and how having failed to rule your own houses well can you expect duly to take care of the church of God by performing that too much neglected duty of private admonition therein. There were of old those who brought children to Christ in the days of his flesh and now the religious parent can breathe no warmer aspiration for them then when he spiritually commends his tender offspring to the protection of his Lord. But see Friends that you encourage no propensities in them which prevent a union with him. Restrain them we beseech you from associating with those whose influence and example lead away from his law and be especially careful that you introduce not among them publications which are either wholly or in part repugnant



to the faith as it is in Jesus. Let it be your own daily care to endeavour after closer communion with him and to walk in meek submission to his commands so may you gain over the minds of the youth providentially placed under your care that ascendancy which arises from the united effects of sound judgment truest love and a good example.

Finally Friends of every age of every rank we commend you to the protection of Him who died for us and who ever liveth to make intercession for us who is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

William Alexander

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

Jaazaniah Barrett Certificate of removal to Danby. To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Danby State of Vermont.

Dear Friends,

Our Friend Jaazaniah Barrett having sometime past informed us of a prospect he had of removing from this Meeting and now proposing to remove with his family within the verge of your Meeting and requesting our Certificate. These may certify on their behalf that they are Members in Unity & as to their Lives & Conversations they are an Orderly Family whose names are his wife Rhoda his Children John Hannah Jonathan Jaazaniah Abigail Elisha George &



Rhoda. They have been Usefull Members in the Society He being an Elder in good Esteem & upon enquiry Dont find but that he may Leave his outward affairs to Satisfaction with Desires for their Prosperity and Growth in the Truth we Recommend them to your Christian care & oversight & Remain your Friends Brethren & Sisters.

Signed in and by order of Said Meeting by  
the 21 of 11<sup>th</sup> 1802

Nathan Haskness Clerk  
Lucy Twitchel Clerk

### A Testimony of Denial of Daniel Coss

From Our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond the 21 of 10<sup>th</sup> 1801 Whereas Daniel Coss hath had a right of Membership amongst us but he not Paining due regard to the Principle of Truth has Divided therefrom Has scandalously Defamed a Neighbouring friend and his family and Also he has for a Long time been frequently overtaken with Sleeping in Meetings to the Dishonour of Truth and Friends for which we have Laboured with him without the Desired effect Therefore we have Disowned Unity with him as a Member untill he shall Return and make Satisfaction. signed in and by order of said Meeting By Jacob<sup>th</sup> Barrett Clerk

### A Certificate of Removal for William Basset & family from Uxbridge Monthly Meeting

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Uxbridge 4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1794



To the Monthly Meeting of friends at Richmond. Dear friends Our Friend William Bassett having removed with his family from us to settle within the verge of your Meeting and requested our Certificate We Therefore Certify on his Behalf that he is a Member and Elder in Good Esteem amongst us. Also his Children are Members their Names are Cyrus Lydia Arlimas Daniel Ellis and Martha. His Affairs are settled to Satisfaction as far as appears as such we recommend them to your Christian care and oversight Signed in and on Behalf of the above Said Meeting -

By Josiah Shove Clerk  
Rachel Bassett Clerk

A Certificate of Removal for Joseph Wing & family to the Monthly Meeting of Epton  
From Our Monthly Meeting of Men & Women first held at Richmond in the state of New Hampshire the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1802  
To the Monthly Meeting held at Epton in the state of New York. Dear Friends. Joseph Wing having removed with his family to the Town of Allington in the Comrafs of your <sup>monthly</sup> Meeting and requesting our Certificate & we having paid Attention thereto at Length find nothing but he has settled his outward affairs to tolerable Satisfaction and These are to Certify on his behalf that he is a Member in Unity with us and was a Pretty Steady attender of Meetings & Also his Wife Dinah & his Son Jabez are Members in Unity of Our Meeting & as such we recommend them to your Christian care & oversight Signed in and on behalf of Said Meeting

By Nathan Harkness Clerk  
Sarah Harkness Clerk  
(for the Day)



# A Testimony of Acknowledgement of Savery Wing

To the Monthly Meeting next to be held at Richmond  
Whereas I had in my Youthfull Days a Right of Mem-  
bership among you but not duly attending to the Lea-  
-ings of Truth & the Principles of Our Profession  
<sup>particularly in giving way to Youthfull Families & too much</sup>  
have Strayed therefrom frequenting Irreligious com-  
-pany not duly keeping to Plainness of habit & Language  
in which State I Unduly & Unseasonably Contracted  
& Consummated Marriage Contrary to the Good Order among  
Friends & having of Late Seriously taken a View of my  
past Life am Sincerely sorry for these my transgressions  
and hope you will forgive & Pass them by & that I in  
future may so walk as not to Dishonor Our Profession  
& find Peace in my Own Mind.

Richmond 11.2 M<sup>o</sup> 1802 Savery Wing

The within Named Saery Wing Presented the ~~within~~  
Acknowledgement to this Meeting & there having been a  
Solid & Satisfactory Opportunity with him thereon  
and this Meeting being Satisfied therewith Do restore  
him to a State of Membership again among us  
and he Requesting Our Certificate to Quermans Mon-  
thly Meeting. These May certify the same unto  
you & with Desires for his Pres<sup>ervation</sup> and Growth in  
the Truth we remain your Friends Brethren &  
Sisters Signed in & on behalf of our said Monthly  
Meeting of Mens & Womens Meetings  
held at Richmond the 18 of 2 M<sup>o</sup> 1802

By Nathan Harkness Clerk.  
Sarah Harkness Clerk-  
-for the Day



A Certificate of Removal for Darling Saben  
& Wife

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Richmond

Dear Friends ——— Darling Saben and his  
Wife Phoebe having removed from us and requested a Certificate to your meeting this may  
Certify on their behalf that they are members  
of our Society and on Inquiry we do not find  
but that their affairs are Settled.

as such we Remment them to your Christian  
Care and Oversight

Signed in and on Behalf of said Uxbridge  
Monthly Meeting held the 26<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1801

By Moses Farnum Clerk  
Lydia Smith Clerk

A Testimony of Denial of Jonathan Case.

From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond  
the 22<sup>d</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> mo 1801

Whereas Jonathan Case son of Daniel hath had  
a Right of Membership amongst us, but by not paying  
due attention to the Principles of our profession which teaches  
to live peaceably with all men & give no just occasion  
of offence to any has contrary thereto assisted in publishing  
a Libel the tendency of which was not only infamous, to scandalize  
a Neighbouring Friend & his Family but also  
to raise Contention & disturbance in Society. & Continuing  
in the spirit of Contention did when at a Publick gathering  
not only use hard words & provoking Language but  
from words came to blows & fought furiously to the shame & disgrace  
of our Society for all which we have laboured with him  
without the desired effect. Therefore we have Disowned Unity with  
him as a Member until he shall return & make suitable  
Satisfaction. Signed in & by order of said Meeting

By Joseph Bassett Clerk



## A Testimony of Denial of Daniel Cofe &c

From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond the 22<sup>d</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month 1801.

Whereas Daniel Cofe son of Daniel hath had a Right of Membership amongst us but by not paying due attention to the Principles of our Profession which teaches to live peaceably with all Men and give no just Occasion of Offence to any has contrary thereto assisted in publishing a Libel the tendency of which was not only infamous to scandalize a Neighbouring Friend and his Family but also to raise Contention and disturbance in Society. And he the said Daniel when lately at a public gathering falling into Contention and from thence to fighting fought furiously to the Shame and disgrace of our Society. For all which we have laboured with him without the desired Effect. Therefore we have

Disowned Unity with him as a Member until he shall return and make suitable Satisfaction.

Signed in and by order of said Meeting  
By Jazph. Barrett Clerk

## A Testimony of the Denial of Hotel Wing

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond the 17<sup>th</sup> of 9<sup>th</sup> Mo 1801.

Whereas Hotel Wing son of Joseph Wing hath had a right of membership in our Society: yet through inattention to the Manifestation of truth in his own mind & through the influence of youthful Vanity he hath widely deviated from the Path of rectitude in which State notwithstanding the labours bestowed on him he has gone on from one evil to unto another until at length as it appears he is guilty of the evil of unchastity, he being accused of being the Father of an illegitimate Child, to his own & Society's reproach, we have therefore disowned Unity with him as a Member, still with his repentance & return.

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting By Jazph. Barrett Clerk



Extracts from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island in 6<sup>th</sup> month 1801

By the reports from the several Quarterly Meetings it appears that the concern of this Meeting relative to the establishment of Schools under the care of Monthly Meetings has claimed some attention in Friends minds divers Schools have been established under the care of Friends & a prospect of some others being opened - yet we are sorrowfully affected by the information that some instances have occurred even where some schools were established by Monthly Meetings that some friends have been so inattentive not only to the concern of the body on this subject but we fear to the precious dictates of Truth in their own minds as to send their Children to publick or other improper schools where their tender minds are exposed to suffer loss - Under these impressions we are concerned to exhort all in profession with us, deeply to consider the important duty we owe to our beloved offspring whose minds it is incumbent upon us to watch over with all diligence that they be trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and we further desire that Friends may be encouraged not only to labor in the ability afforded in the spirit of brotherly affection & meekness to prevent such inadvertence in future but also with fervency and hope persevere in endeavours to affect the Object of this Meetings concern as far as our individual Circumstances may allow and by no means admit the consideration that the Sacrifice of those extraordinary favours intrusted to our Stewardship should be put in competition with the all important object of the present and eternal welfare of our beloved Children and each Quarterly Meeting is requested to report their progress therein next year -

The Committee appointed last year made the following report -  
To the yearly Meeting to be held in the 6<sup>th</sup> month next we the Committee appointed at last yearly Meeting to consider of the division of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting attended thereto and most of us visited most of the Monthly Meetings in said Quarter together with the Quarterly Meeting, and after endeavouring waitly to consider thereof



it is our Sense and Judgement that advantage may arise from the following division viz—

That the Monthly Meeting of Smithfield Wadbridge Bolton and Richmond be sett off from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and that they constitute one by the name of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting & that it be held as follows—viz— at Smithfield the 5<sup>th</sup> day before the 2<sup>d</sup> sixth day in the 2<sup>d</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> months and at Bolton the 5<sup>th</sup> day before 3<sup>rd</sup> sixth day in the 8<sup>th</sup> moon and that when said Meetings are held at Smithfield there be no public Meeting held there on that account— and that Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting heretofore held at Smithfield in the 10<sup>th</sup> mo be held at Providence at the same time that it was held at Smithfield and the other times of holding said Rhode Island Quarterly be at the same times and places as heretofore

Smithfield the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month 1800

Signed on behalf of the Committee

by John Bailey  
Sarah Otis

which is accepted and the division therein proposed is adopted and it is concluded that the two Quarterly Meetings of Rhode Island and Smithfield be held at the times and places therein proposed and if it appears to them that any alteration either in time or place for holding them would be more agreeable they are requested to inform the yearly Meeting thereof next year— and we appoint Corsetius Howland Isaac Lawton Eber Davis Moses Brown and William Rolch June to set with Friends at the opening of the new Quarterly Meeting—

This Meeting concludes to raise five hundred Dollars for the service of the ensuing year of which Rhode Island Quarterly Meetings proportion is two Hundred Dollars which they are desired to forward to our treasurer with



with an account thereof to our next yearly Meeting —

Each Quarterly Meeting is at liberty to appoint not exceeding four friends Members of the Meeting for Sufferings.

W<sup>m</sup> Dotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this Year —

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1801

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London, By Adjournments from the 20<sup>th</sup> of the fifth Month, to the 2<sup>d</sup> of the Sixth Month, 1801, inclusive.

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland and Elsewhere.

Dear Friends

Various have been the exercises in which our minds have been engaged in this our annual Solemnity; yet the spiritual welfare of our absent friends, as our own having been the great object to which they tend, we are disposed afresh thus to greet you in Christ Jesus our Lord: desiring that in Him, and by Him, ye may be made perfect stablished strengthened, settled. but, let us remember that this holy establishment is not to be attained but through suffering. The Cross still remains the way to the Crown. Nevertheless, as a patient endurance of suffering works for us the far more exceeding, and eternal weight of glory, let us accept it as the discipline of Christ designed to make us proficient in his school partakers of his baptism and finally inheritors of his promise. The Maxims and Policy of this fleeting world are still as they ever have been opposed to these sacred truths the spirit of the world therefore hath its allurements for drawing the Incautious of every class from



Under this holy discipline it captivates some with its profits others with its pleasures and others with its prospect of Greater ease than the way of truth will admit the rich and the poor the wise and the simple are all within the reach of its baits: and if palpable temptations to indolence are withstood, it can insinuate itself under the appearance of virtue and zeal for the honour of God. Wherefore, dear Friends We exhort you "Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day; and having done all to stand." How emphatic the expression, "Having done all to stand!" Be willing to be invested by the Captain of Our Salvation with every article of his heavenly armour; and, as saith the apostle above all, "Take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the Wicked." Thus Friends, accept our Warm and Cordial Salutation in Scripture phrases but let us all, having surveyed the standard of righteousness, be willing to be measured by it; to examine our own states and to see whether we are doing all in our power to edify our brethren. It hath pleased our wise Creator to plant us in Society. To know therefore whether We are acting our proper part in it or not, is a subject worthy of our serious consideration. And ye, dear Friends whose hearts are indeed bound to the Holy testimony, be vigilant We beseech you When ye see the approach of an enemy, be timely in warning of the danger. There is probably no one, however obscure his station, whose heart the Lord hath touched and who hath bended under the secret conviction but may be in his hand, an instrument of good to others. Faint not therefore nor be weary even though you should seem to Labour without fruit; but remember that no service in his Sineyard... and by his direction goes without



its reward: and that it is he alone that can give the increase.

To you also who occupy the more conspicuous Stations in our Society, are we concerned to extend the word of exhortation. Be ye ensamples to the flock. Such, however, ye can never be, but by taking heed to your own steps, by the Light wherewith Christ, the chief Shepherd hath enlightened you. But if you suffer the light that is in you to become Darkness, "how Great is that Darkness!" If this should unhappily be the case with any. Such may resemble those of whom it was said of old, that they entered not in themselves nor suffered those that were entering to go in. But, beloved Friends, let us add, in words similar to those of the Apostle, we are persuaded better things of numbers among you, and things that accompany Salvation, though we thus speak.

And Dear Young People, our anxious and constant care, how shall we express the Desire that we feel that no evil may prevail against you! truly, what things shall ever harm you, if ye be followers of that which is Good?" But ye your selves must cooperate with the Grace, which is from time to time offered for your acceptance. You must watch, and you must pray, to be preserved from evil; and if you are in earnest in this exercise, you certainly will be careful to avoid the means of Temptation. They are various: but your Guide will not fail you in discovering them. So ye therefore to it, and may the Lord endow you richly with his blessing.

The Suffering of Friends brought in this year are chiefly for tithes priests demands, and those called church-rates also for divers demands of a military nature. There amount is upwards of Nine Thousand and forty Pounds. from Great-Britain and Ireland.

Epistles have been received from all the Yearly Meetings on the American Continent. Our Friends in Pennsylvania have some time had it in contemplation



to establish a Boarding School, under the direction of their Yearly Meeting. Their undertaking appears prosperous. The School is established and opened, and upwards of two Hundred children have been admitted. We also learn that the Government of the United States, has made such additions to the law heretofore passed for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, as afford a rational prospect that the iniquitous traffick will be done away in those States.

From an inspection into the State of the Society, as laid open in the answers to the Queries brought to this Meeting we think we can discover on the whole, reason for encouragement; but the concern truly to labour for the removal of heartfall things, appears to be less in some places than in others, and in most quarters too little. Wherefore dear Friends, let us renew our exhortation, be in earnest.

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men: knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

"Iron" saith the wise man, "sharpeneth iron: so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Thus, at these our Yearly Meetings we are encouraged by the presence of each other to persevere in the way which we believe to be cast up for us. But we are not unmindful of the different Situation of many of you, dear Friends, whose lots are cast in solitary places, and who necessarily assemble for worship in small companies. But seeing, "The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him," we beseech you to be encouraged in the Punctual attendance of your meetings. This, indeed, we believe is incumbent on all who desire to manifest themselves to be his humble dependants, and is especially necessary at a time when, under various and specious pretences, many are neglecting the due performance of this loading duty. We therefore are disposed, with respect



respect to this Subject. and some others to which we have adverted in this our epistle. to sum up our concern with the language of the Apostle Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: for He is faithful that promised: and let us consider one another, to provoke unto Love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Friends, Farewell in the Lord.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting, by  
 William Hawes, Jun.  
 Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

A Certificate of Removal for Perigreen Wheeler  
 & Wife from Bolton Monthly Meeting.

From Our Monthly Meeting of Men & Women  
 (Friends held <sup>at</sup> Bolton  
 On the Monthly Meeting of Friends in Richmond  
 Beloved Brothers & Sisters.

Perigreen Wheeler informed this Meeting that he  
 Proposed to remove with Sarah his Wife within the verge  
 of your Monthly Meeting & requested our Certificate now  
 these are to Certify that they are Members of Our Society  
 & have settled their Outward affairs to Satisfaction as far as  
 appears. Signed in & by Order of Said Meeting.

Bolton 24<sup>th</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1802 By Daniel Wheeler } Clk  
 Hannah Wheeler }



Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes of Friends held on Rhode Island in 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1802.

The Quarterly Meeting of Smithfield having proposed that their Meeting in the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> be held at Leicester instead of Smithfield It is acceded to & it is concluded accordingly to be held at Leicester on the 5<sup>th</sup> day before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sixth Day in the 5<sup>th</sup> Month— Most of the Quarterly Meetings in their accounts Inform that some progress has been made in regard to establishing schools agreeable to the recommendation of this Meeting the unabated diligence & attention of Friends is earnestly & affectionately recommended to this desirable object of the important & guarded Education of our youth that the same may be carried still further into effect agreeable to our discipline & the advice of this meeting last year—

The Yearly Meeting have concluded to raise five hundred Dollars. Smithfield Quarterly Meeting is requested to forward to our treasurer \$50 their proportion of this years Stock & an account thereof to our next Yearly Meeting—

Extracted from the minutes of our Yearly Meeting on Rhode Island in the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1802.

by Obadiah Davis Clerk

Richmond Monthly Meetings proportion of the Yearly Meetings Stock is \$7.14 Cents. Moses Farnum. Clerk

A certificate of removal for Samuel Knowls & Family

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Farnborough State of Vermont. Esteemed Friends. Samuel Knowls having requested our certificate of removal for himself and family within the verge of your Monthly Meeting whose names are Sally his wife his Children Phileas, Sophia, John, Samuel, Sarah, Hannah & David who are Members of our Society & are of orderly lives & conversations as such we recommend them to your christian care & oversight nothing appears but that they have settled their outward affairs to satisfaction.

Nathan Harkness, Clk

Sarah Harkness, Clk

from our monthly meeting of Friends held at Richmond New Hampshire 21 of 10<sup>th</sup> 1802. Signed in & by order of said meeting & comes meetings Pzy



Extracts from the Yearly Meetings & Minutes.

The Committee appointed to consider some of the Queries recommend that the following be adopted instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Queries which is agreed to & these alterations are directed to be inserted in all our Books of Discipline & separate Queries.

Query 2<sup>nd</sup>. Is love & unity maintained amongst you. & Detraction guarded against; and where any differences arise are endeavours used speedily to end them.

3<sup>rd</sup> Are Friends careful to bring up those under their direction in plainness of Speech. behaviour & apparel to restrain them from reading pernicious Books and the corrupt conversation of the world. are they good examples herein themselves and are the holy scriptures frequently read in their families.

8<sup>th</sup> Are Friends careful to inspect their affairs & settle their accounts whilst in health and are publick Gifts and legacies applied to the use intended by the donor.

The Yearly Meeting meeting having concluded to raise \$600 the Ensuing year Smithfield Quarterly meeting is requested to forward \$50 their proportion to our treasurer & an account thereof to our next yearly Meeting.

Extracted from the minutes of our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1803  
by Obadiah Davis Clerk

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1802

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London by adjournments from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 1802 inclusive.

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great-Britain Ireland and Elsewhere, Dear Friends. We are sensible that unless the Lord bless the labours of the Church, its attempts to edify and to console you, must be in vain but on examining into the present state of our religious Society we apprehend we have felt a warmth which warrents the



continued <sup>our</sup> Salutation of Love; and we have had our minds directed to divers Subjects respecting which we deem that counsel is expedient. Accept therefore, Friends, our Salutation; it is that of Brethren receive we beseech you, the counsel which we may be enabled to impart; its object is your increase in Christ, your establishment in righteousness your present well-being, your eternal salvation.

This Meeting has not been quite so large as some in former years; nor have the cases which have claimed our attention been so numerous; but the strength arising from the labour of many minds united in the same cause, has been in a good degree experienced. The amount of Sufferings brought in this year is upwards of nine thousand five hundred pounds chiefly for tithe, priests demands, and those called church-rates, and some demands of a military nature. one Friend also was imprisoned for a short time on account of tithe.

We have received an epistle from Ireland, and epistles from all the yearly Meetings of Friends in north-America, by which we learn that our brethren in those countries not only are exercised in various concerns peculiar to their own Situation but in common with us remain engaged to enquire into the spiritual welfare of the members, to breathe for the removal of every thing that tends to defile and to rejoice at the signs, which they observe of dedication to the Lord's cause. Since our Last yearly Meeting how signal benefits have been permitted to our native Land; the stop lately put to the effusion of human blood; and the plentiful increase of Sustenance afforded by means of the last year's harvest at a time when famine seemed approaching and when want was severely felt by the poorer class of the community at large. We doubt not that there yet remain many who will long feel the consequences of such deep distress and we believe that we should acceptably show our gratitude to the common parent and bountifull Father of mankind if we yet sought



out and assisted such as the calamities of preceding seasons have bereaved of their necessary comforts, <sup>more</sup> especially among the aged and the infirm. On an occasion too of such general satisfaction as the return of peace to this nation it peculiarly behoves us, as we are known to have a Testimony against those modes of rejoicing even for peace itself which are generally attended with profusion and tumult to evince that we really rejoice at the prosperity of our country by doing good according to our ability to all.

But, Dear friends, in times of outward prosperity there are snares to be avoided, as well as duties to be fulfilled. One of those snares seems to us to be too eager, and therefore unlawful, pursuit of lawful things such a pursuit prevents the mind from rising in living aspirations to God the giver of every good and perfect gift, in supposes it for duty assembling with his devoted servants to wait upon him and worship him; and causes the volume of the Book of Sacred Scriptures - that record of truth which was written aforesaid for our instruction - to be but seldom perused. Such a pursuit, also if general, spreads devastation over religious Society But friends we entreat you " Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things said our blessed Redeemer, speaking of necessary things shall be added unto you." then would your assemblings together be seasons of heavenly consolations, your hearts would be enlarged in that gospel love that knows no bounds to its desire of humane happiness; ye would covet that others might partake with you of the enriching joy; and ye would be careful that not any trifling impediment prevented the due attendance of your own families. Come, would ye say by your example, if not in words. Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob and will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord, in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten. Now dear friends, who stand in the tender relation and in the awful and important station of parents such of you more particularly as have bought the truth



let us again remind you of the danger of indulging your  
 inexperienced offspring in worldly liberties, from which the Truth  
 restrains you. Let not any false and specious reasoning prevail  
 on you to suppose, that it will be sufficiently soon for their wills  
 to be subjected, when they shall have attained maturity of judg-  
 ment. then alas the practice of self gratification may be so confirmed,  
 that the way of self-denial may seem to them much narrower than it  
 really is; and you will have contributed to increase the difficulties  
 of those whom it is your indispensable duty to protect to guard  
 from all danger, and to train up in the way they should go.  
 it is still a precept sanctioned by reason and by revelation  
 Train up a child in the way he should go: and this was impled  
 to Abraham, as a thing wellpleasing to the Almighty: "for I know him," said the Lord, that he will command his  
 children and his household after him, and they shall keep the  
 way of the Lord. And, beloved young Friends, submit, we beseech  
 you, with readiness to the restraints, of your religious graces &  
 as you accustom your selves to bend in due subjection to the power  
 of Truth in your own hearts such restraint will become less irksome  
 as also it will be less necessary. May it you, we are persuaded  
 are no strangers to the voice of wisdom speaking in secret  
 and saying, when you are disposed to turn to the right or  
 to the left hand, this is the way "walk ye in it:" many incon-  
 veniences, evils, and occasions for sorrow of heart, may be avoided  
 by hearing and consulting the holy Witness in your selves, it  
 will sometimes gently arrest you in the prosecution of your  
 purpose when you may not distinctly see the cause. But it is  
 wiser than we, proceeding from that pure Intelligence to which all  
 things and all events are known. O! then mind its secret checks  
 and we are at this time particularly engaged to recommend you  
 to consult the witness, ere you venture upon the perusal of the  
 specious publications with which this age abounds In this way  
 dear children keep your hearts "with all diligence, lest ye enter  
 into temptation. And for you, what ever <sup>be</sup> your age or station  
 who have the burthen of the cause resting as on your shoulders



in this exercising day our desires are strong that you may be preserved in humility and patience and steadily persevere in the path of duty. Unto you it is "given in the behalf of Christ. not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake Thus dear friends as you persevere having your trust and your dependence on the invincible. though sometimes invincible arm of Almighty Power, the Lord will become your shield and your exceeding great reward.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting, by

Joseph Gibbins,

Clerk to the meeting this year.

### Extracts from yearly Meetings minutes.

The Committee appointed to consider Some of the Queries recommend that the following be adopted instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Queries which is agreed to & those alterations are directed to be inserted in all our Books of Discipline & separate Queries. —

Query 2<sup>nd</sup> Is love & unity maintained amongst you & detraction guarded against; and where any differences arise are endeavours used speedily to end them. —

3<sup>rd</sup> Are Friends careful to bring up those under their care direction in plainness of Speech, behaviour and Apparel to restrain them from reading pernicious Books and the corrupt conversation of the world. are they good examples herein themselves and are the holy scriptures frequently read in their Families. —

8<sup>th</sup> Are Friends careful to inspect their affairs & settle their accounts whilst in health. and are publick gifts and legacies applied to the use intended by the donor. —



The yearly meeting having concluded to raise \$500 the ensuing year Smithfield Quarterly meeting is requested to forward \$50 their proportion to our treasurer & an account thereof to our next yearly Meeting. —

Extracted from the minutes of our yearly meeting held on Rhode-Island by adjournments from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo: 1803 by

Obadiah Davis Clerk

(The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1803  
The Epistle From the Yearly Meeting held in London  
by Adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the first  
month. 1803, inclusive:

To the Quarterly and monthly meetings of Friends in  
Great Britian Ireland and Elsewhere. Dear Friends  
It hath seemed Good to this meeting to send you a fresh  
memorial of its love; and of its continuing travel that  
you may be more and more purified from every defile-  
ment of flesh and spirit: that thus you may show  
forth in your lives the efficacy of the grace of our blessed  
Redeemer: and at the solemn final close, and in the

(Day of righteous desision be of the number whom he  
will own in the presence of his Almighty Father. — This  
Friends. is not this the mark at which all of us ought to  
aim is not this the prize without which all other ac-  
quisition are less than nothing and vanity Seek it  
therefore with a solicitude proportioned to its infinite  
importance Suffer not the things of time to have an  
undue share of your affections and look with faith  
and reliance on the captain of our Salvation.



Out of him we can do nothing in him is life and that life is the light of men.

Epistles have been received from New England New York Pennsylvania and New Jersey Maryland Virginia and the Carolinas also an Epistle from Ireland. The unity of religious concern, discoverable in these testimonials of the remembrance of distant brethren is truly acceptable.

The Amount of Sufferings brought in this year is upward of nine Thousand five hundred and Thirty pounds: they are chaisty as heretofore for tithes and other ecclesiastical demands; with a portion for the militia. One friend has been imprisoned on this latter account.

Though we have not for some years thought it necessary always to announce the additions to our Society by convincement it may be proper now to remark, that it has not been because the number of such as are from time to time led so to join us, has been less. (This year also we have an account of several: and we believe the nearer we ourselves approach to the Standard of Truth, the more will our conduct invite others to repair to it.

On Examining the present State of our <sup>religious</sup> Society, we have found several things to lament, because we believe them to be the consequence of a neglect of the holy light of which we have been speaking; but no one hath engaged more of our attention, or occasioned a deeper exercise of mind, than to observe that some of our members are more or less deficient in duly attending the opportunities for public worship. And though we have often and lately expressed our concern on this account: yet the continued need of admonition the succession of persons to whom our advice may reach and the warmth we feel in contemplating the subject - all induce us to open it somewhat further for your serious consideration,

That the assembling of ourselves for the purpose of expressing our sense of dependence on our great Creator is a duty most if not all of us acknowledge by stated or occasional attendance at some of the times appointed for worship.



But too many content themselves with an attendance once  
 in the week, on the day when business is suspended; and even of  
 that day the greater part is devoted to what is called relaxation  
 thus little as it is which is meant for sacrifice that little has cost  
<sup>them</sup> nothing. and how many—how many even of those who are far  
 removed above indigence—seldom if ever leave their outward  
 business pursuits to join with their brethren on other days  
 of the week the want of due and diligent attendance at the  
 usual times is productive of many evils, it often deprives  
 the mind of opportunities of instruction and consolation  
 and thus leaves it more liable to be drawn aside from the  
 right way by the spirit of the world; it leads naturally to  
 the neglect of other religious duties and it tends to occasion  
 indifference in those to whom the influence reaches by its  
 baneful example, but the habitual neglect of religious  
 meetings in any of our members as it is thus the cause of  
 many evils hath also itself a cause, this dear friends, we  
 should search out, if we wish to have the remedy applied and  
 to what cause can we ascribe it but to want of hunger and  
 thirst for that spiritual refreshment, which is yet, blessed be  
 the Lord to be known in the meetings of his humble and depen-  
 dent servants; now if we feel not this hunger and thirst  
 is there not reason for us to be alarmed and may we not  
 justly fear that we are spiritually sick? And truly not-  
 withstanding the excuses of such as yet acknowledge pub-  
 lic worship to be essential, and the specious semblances  
 of reasoning of such as attempt to set aside a constant  
 obligation to it experience has taught us, that the neg-  
 lect of meetings both indicates and produces indisposi-  
 tion of mind; and tends to lay waste religious society  
 wherefore, we once more beseech the remiss of the present  
 day to lay these things to heart and strive for amen-  
 dment and we again press it upon such as are  
 themselves diligent that they do not neglect any



gentle intimation of duty to admonish a brother or a sister for whose remissness they feel concern.

But although we are thus particular on a subject, which we believe concerns not us alone but every professor of the christian name we have been unmindful of several testimonies which we believe to be, as yet, more peculiarly our own: to bear for the honour of the Great Head of the Church, and against the spirit which leads into conformity with the world. Such is our testimony for the free teachings of the Light of Christ revealed in the soul, and through such instructions as he may immediately prepare, call, and qualify; in contradiction to a ministry formed by man, and undertaken for temporal rewards. This testimony remains as incumbent upon us as ever, and although our accounts indicate it rather to gain ground than to decline, yet a concern hath been witnessed at this time that it may still further prevail, and be borne in a disposition which may show to observers, that our motive is singly to promote the cause of Christ. The deviations from our ancient simplicity of manners, of speech, and of attire, however some may affect to term them small things, are notwithstanding causes of great grief to the faithful among us; because we are persuaded that they demonstrate a mind averse from the self-denial which the gospel enjoins, and lead to liberties of a hurtful tendency. In our last epistle, we cautioned such as have the care of youth against idleness and indulgence in these respects that wounds their own minds, and lamentably injures the tender objects of their care. We renew the caution and we press it upon friends who themselves are clear, to <sup>be</sup> early and earnest in advising parents against the beginnings of concivance at the vain propensities of their children. But friends, what shall we say to such as lead them, almost in infancy, into fashions which they themselves, in their own practice, appear to disapprove. Now for you, tender youth, arise, before we conclude, the salutation of love and the word of encouragement. We have often addressed you also with counsel and caution, because we have often felt you, as we now feel, very near to us in gospel affection; and we pray that nothing may upset you to be presented and united to Christ. Even now, in early life, if you seek an acquaintance with him, as



outwardly revealed in the Scriptures of truth, and inwardly in your hearts; and if you become his friends by obedience to his voice; even now you will contribute to the advancing of his cause of righteousness; and as you follow on under the guidance of his meek and lowly spirit, you will be enabled more conspicuously to espouse his cause, where the faithful labourers of the present day shall have entered into rest.

May young and old, and all the intermediate classes of our society, be aroused to a due sense of the one important purpose of life. Is it not to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling? And why with fear, but from the natural infirmity of the creature, and the temptations which surround <sup>but</sup> friends hold on your way. Help is laid on One that is mighty. He who died for us will not forsake those that trust in him.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting, by

Robert Barnard.

Clerk to the meeting this year.

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Smithfield  
1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> 1804

Dear Friends

Samuel Arnold having removed from us to

Live at Pelham in the State of ~~the~~ Massachusetts. within the compass of your Monthly Meeting; these may therefore certify on his behalf that he is a member of this Meeting and in good degree of an orderly life and conversation while amongst us; and has settled his outward affairs to satisfaction as far as appears. We hereby recommend him to your brotherly care and oversight desiring his further growth and establishment in the Truth.

We conclude and are your Friends —

Signed on behalf and by direction of our Meeting,

By Rowland Kitchin Clerk



From our Monthly Meeting held at Richmond the 16<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.  
 1804. Whereas Silas Gilson Son of Paul hath had a right of  
 membership amongst us but he not harkening to the Boice of wisdom  
 in his own heart has fallen into many hurtful things. Viz.  
 He has attended places of Publick resort unnecessarily such as  
 Trainings places of <sup>misch</sup>Meriment and dancing and has been in the  
 practice of card playing. he has also departed from plainness both  
 of speech and habit and has been Very slack in the attendan  
 of our religious Meetings for which we have Laboured with  
 him in love without the Desired effect we have therefore  
 Disowned unity with him and put him from under our care  
 as a member until he shall return and make satisfaction.  
 Signed in and by Order of said Meeting.

By Nathan Harkness Clerk

### Extracts from the Quarterly Meetings minutes

Four of the committee appointed at last Quarter to consider  
 to consider of & propose boundary lines between the monthly meet  
 ings belonging to this Quarter made the following report & viz.  
 Agreeable to appointment we have considered of a line between  
 Uxbridge & Richmond monthly Meetings: and are of opinion  
 that begining at shrewsbury line on the turnpike road &  
 following C<sup>o</sup> road through Worcester Holden Rutland & Hard  
 wick & from thence by the greatest road to bellchertown & so on  
 to Connecticut River will be the best dividing line at present:  
 And between Uxbridge & Bolton at the same place on shrews  
 bury-line to extend to Grafton Meeting house from thence on the  
 greatest road to Westborough meeting house & from thence the  
 greatest road to the Forge of Salem Quarterly Meeting.  
 And no objection appearing in this meeting & Report is accepted & the  
 lines thereon proposed are adopted the Clerk is desired to forward a copy  
 of this minute to Uxbridge Richmond & Bolton Monthly Meetings  
 Extracted from the minutes of a Quarterly Meeting of Friends held  
 at and for Smithfield the 9 of 2<sup>mo</sup>: 1804.

By Moses Farnum Clerk



## Extracts from the Yearly Meeting's Minutes

The committee to take into consideration the general state of society having considered the subject of revising the Queries have submitted to this meeting as their judgment that the introductory Recommendation usually read prefacing the queries may safely be omitted in future unless circumstances render it necessary. And that Women Friends in their meetings need not read or answer that part of the seventh query respecting the payment of Priests wages bearing of Arms training or other Military matters — and that the following be substituted for the Ninth Query viz are friends careful to maintain our Testimony faithfully against Slavery. Which after deliberate consideration is adopted and these Alterations are directed to be inserted in all our books of Discipline.

This Meeting hath concluded to raise \$500 the ensuing year the Quarterly Meeting of Smithfield is directed to forward to this Meeting's Treasurer \$50 and an account thereof to this Meeting next year — Extracted from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island by Adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6 month inclusive 1804 by

Obadiah Davis Clerk

## Marriage Certificate of Artemas Bassett

Artemas Bassett of Richmond in the county of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire Son of William Bassett of Richmond in the county and State aforesaid and Margery his wife and Sarah Harkness Daughter of Nathan Harkness of Richmond in the county and State aforesaid and Susanna his wife having declared their Intentions of taking each other in Marriage before several Monthly Meetings of the People called Quakers in the County of Cheshire according to the Good order used amongst them. their Proceedings after due enquiry and deliberate Consideration thereof. Were allowed by the said Meetings they appearing clear of all others and having consent of parents and Others concerned Now these are to Certify all whome it may Concern that for the



full accomplishing of their said intentions this  
 Twenty Eighth day of the Third Month in the year  
 of Our Lord 1806 they the said Artemas Bassett and  
 Sarah Harkness appeared at a publick assembly  
 of the <sup>above said</sup> People and others in their Meeting House in  
 Richmond and he the said Artemas Bassett taking  
 the said Sarah Harkness by the hand did openly declare  
 as follows. Friends I take this my Friend Sarah Harkness  
 to be my wife promising through Divine assistance  
 to be unto her a loving and faithfull Husband untill  
 it shall please the Lord by Death to separate us. and  
 the said Sarah Harkness did then and there in like  
 manner declare as followeth Friends I Take this my  
 Friend Artemas Bassett to be my Husband promising  
 through Divine assistance to be unto him a loving  
 and faithfull wife untill it shall please the Lord by  
 Death to separate us. or words to the like import and  
 the said Artemas Bassett & Sarah Harkness as a  
 further confirmation thereof have hereunto set their  
 hands: she after the custom of Marriage assuming  
 the name of her Husband.

Artemas Bassett  
 Sarah Bassett

And we whose names are hereunto  
 subscribed being present with others  
 at the Consummating of their S. Marriage  
 as witnesses thereunto set our hands the  
 Day and year above written.

Peter Taft Moses Allen jun  
 Enock Southwick Josiah Buffum  
 Wm Bassett Levi Morry  
 Israel Taber Nathan Bowls  
 Daniel Bassett Sam Curtis jun  
 Elijah Harkness Dorling Taber  
 George Harkness Mary Southwick  
 Obed Harkness Lucy Twichel  
 Moses Allen Ruth Bassett  
 Paul Gilson Susanna Harkness  
 Paul Hardy Lydia Shearmon  
 Susanna Harkness jun  
 Ellis Bassett

Martha Bassett  
 Phoebe Taber  
 Nancy Southwick  
 Abigail Southwick  
 Betsey Southwick  
 Sarah Buffum  
 Rachel Morry  
 Sarah Bullock  
 Hannah Randall  
 Candace Howe  
 Esther Bullock  
 Ruth Martin  
 Zilphia Capi  
 Hannah Deater  
 Elizabeth Sweet  
 Anne Mann  
 Mary Taft  
 prodr. Capi  
 Hannah Harkness



# The Epistle from London yearly Meeting for 1803

The Epistle from the yearly Meeting held in London  
By Adjournment from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the  
Fifth Month 1803. inclusive;  
To the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings of Friends  
in Great Britain, Ireland and Elsewhere.

Dear Friends,

It hath seemed good to this meeting to send you  
a fresh memorial of its Love, and of its continuing  
that you may be more and more purified from every  
taint of flesh and spirit: that thus you may  
show forth in your lives the efficacy of the grace of our  
redeemer; and at the solemn final close  
in the day of brightest decision be of the number  
Whom the Father will see in the presence of his Almighty  
Father. Ah! Friends, is not this the mark at which  
all of us ought to aim? Is not this the prize without  
which all other acquisitions are "less than nothing,  
and vanity;" seek it therefore with a solicitude  
proportioned to its infinite importance; suffer not  
the things of time to have an undue share of your  
affections; and look with faith and reliance on  
the Captain of our Salvation. Out of him we can  
do nothing; in him is life and that life is the  
light of men.

Epistles have been received from New England,  
New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, Maryland,  
Virginia and the Carolinas; also an epistle from  
Ireland. The unity of religious concern has overcome  
in these testimonials of the remembrance of our  
distant Brethren, is truly acceptable.

The amount of sufferings brought in this Year is  
upwards of nine thousand five hundred & thirty pounds  
\* are chiefly as heretofore for tithes and other eccle-  
siastical demands; with a portion for the militia and  
other has been impounded on this latter account.

\* It is to be regretted that we should have to continue  
an opinion which has prevailed among the public  
that the Societies are the cause of the sufferings. No such  
has ever existed.



Though we have not for some years thought it necessary always to announce the additions to our Society by Convincement, it may be proper now to remark, that it has not been because the number of such as are from time to time led to join us, has been less. This year also we have an account of several: and we believe the nearer we ourselves approach to the standard of truth, the more will our conduct invite others to repair to it. In examining the present state of our Religious Society, we have found several things to lament because we believe them to be the consequence of a neglect of the holy light of which we have been speaking; but no one truth engaged more of our attention or occasioned a deeper exercise of mind, than to observe that some of our members are more or less deficient in duly attending the opportunities for public worship. And though we have often and ever lastly expressed our concern on this account, yet the continuous need of admonition the success of persons to whom our advice may reach, & the warmth we feel in contemplating the subject - all induce us to open it somewhat further for your serious considerations.

That the assembling of ourselves for the purpose of expressing our sense of dependence on our great Creator is a duty, might if not all of us acknowledge by State or occasional attendance at some of the times appointed for worship. But too many content themselves with an attendance once in the week, on the day when business is supposed to be at an end; and even on that day, the greater part is devoted to what is called relaxation. Thus little as it is which is meant for sacrifice, that little has cost them nothing, and how many - how many of those who are far removed above indigence - seldom, if ever, leave their abodes, pursuing to join with their Brethren, on other days of the week! The want of due and diligent attendance at the usual times is productive of many evils. It often deprives the mind of opportunities of instruction and consolation; and thus leaves it more liable to be drawn aside from the right way, by the spirit of the world; it leads naturally to



to the neglect of other religious duties; and it  
tends to occasion indifference in those to whom  
the influence reaches, by its baneful example  
that the habitual neglect of religious meet-  
ings in any of our members, as it is thus the  
cause of many evils, hath also itself a cause.  
This, dear Friends we should search out, if we  
wish to have the remedy applied. And to what  
cause can we ascribe it but to a want of  
hunger and thirst for that spiritual refresh-  
ment, which is yet, blessed be the Lord to be  
known in the meetings of his humble  
and dependant servants? Now if we feel as  
this hunger and thirst, is there not reason for  
us to be alarmed; and may we not justly  
fear, that we are spiritually sick? and truly  
notwithstanding the excuses of such as yet  
acknowledge public worship to be essential  
and the specious semblances of reasoning of such  
as attempt to set aside a constant obligation  
to it, experience has taught us, that a neglect  
of meetings both indicates and produces indis-  
position of mind; and tends to lay waste reli-  
gious Society. wherefore we once more beseech  
the members of the present day, to lay these  
things to heart, and strive for amendment; and let  
each press it upon such as are themselves  
delinquent that they do not neglect any  
gentle intimation of duty, to admonish a  
brother or a sister for whose sins they  
may feel concern. — But although we are thus  
particular on a subject which we believe concerns  
not us alone but every professor of the Christian  
name we have not been unmindful of several  
testimonies which we believe to be as yet, more  
peculiar our own; to bear for the honour for the  
good of the Church and against the



Spirit which leads into conformity with the Word. Such is our testimony for the free teachings of the light of Christ revealed in the Word and through such instruments as he may immediately prepare and qualify in contradiction to a ministry formed by Man and undertaken for temporal reward. This testimony remains as incumbent upon us as ever, and although our accounts incline it rather to gain ground than to decline yet a concern hath been witnessed at this time that it may still further prevail and be borne in a disposition which may show to observers that our motive is single to promote the cause of Christ. The deviation from our ancient simplicity of manners of speech and of attire, however some may affect to term them small things, are notwithstanding causes of great grief to the faithful among us: because we are persuaded that they demonstrate a mind averse from the self-denial which the gospel enjoins and lead to liberties of a hurtful tendency. In our last Epistle we cautioned such as have the care of Youth against an indulgence in those respects that wounds their own minds and lamentably injures the tender objects of their care. We renew the caution and we press it upon Friends who themselves are pleased to be early and earnest in advising parents against the beginnings of condescendance at the vain propensities of their children. But Friends what shall we say to such as lead them along in infancy into fashions which they themselves in their own practice appear to disapprove?

Now for you, tender Youth arises, before we conclude the Salutation of Love and the word of encouragement. We have often addressed you often with counsel and caution because we have often felt you as we now feel very near to us in gospel affection: and we pray that nothing may unfit you to be presented and united to



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Christ. Even now, in early Life if you seek an acquaintance with him as outwardly revealed in the Scriptures of truth, and inwardly in your hearts; and if you become his Friend by Obedience to his voice; even now you will contribute to the advancing of his cause of righteousness, and as you follow on under the guidance of his meek and Lowly Spirit you will be enabled more conspicuously to espouse his cause when the faithful Labourers of the present day shall have entered into rest.

May young and old, and all the intermediate classes of our Society, be aroused to a due sense of the one important purpose of Life. Is it not to work out their own Salvation with fear and trembling? And why with fear but from the natural infirmity of the Creature and the temptations which surround? That friends not on your way. Help is laid on One that is mighty. He who died for us will not forsake those that trust in Him—

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

Robert Barnard

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

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Marriage Certificate of George H. H. H.



George Harkness of Richmond in the County of  
Cheshire and State of New Hampshire Son of Va-  
than Harkness of the same Town County and State  
afore said and Susanna his Wife and Betsy Southwick  
Daughter of Enoch Southwick of the same Town afore-  
said and Mary his Wife: Having Declared their inten-  
tions of Taking each Other in Marriage before several  
Monthly Meetings of the People called Quakers in the  
County of Cheshire According to the good Order used  
Amongst them their Proceedings after due enquiry  
and Deliberate Consideration thereof Were allowed  
by the said Meetings they Appearing clear of all  
Objections and having Consent of Parents and Others con-  
cerned: Now these are to Certify all to whom it may  
Concern that for the full Accomplishing of their said  
Intentions this Twenty Eight Day of the Eleventh Month  
in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred  
and five they the said George Harkness and Betsy  
Southwick Appeared at a Publick Assembly of the  
afore said People and Others in their Meeting house  
in Richmond and he the said George Harkness  
taking the said Betsy Southwick by the hand  
Did Openly declare as followeth—

Friends I take this my Friend Betsy Southwick  
to be my Wife promising through Divine Assis-  
tance to be unto her a Loving and faithful Hus-  
band Until it shall please the Lord by Death  
to Separate us. And the said Betsy Southwick did  
then and there in like manner declare as follow-  
eth: Friends I take this my friend George Hark-  
ness to be my Husband promising through Divine  
Assistance to be unto him a Loving and faithful  
Wife Until it shall please the Lord by Death  
to Separate us or words to the like import and  
the said George Harkness and Betsy Southwick  
as a further Confirmation thereof have hereunto



hereunto set their hands: She after the Custom  
of Marriage assuming the name of her Husband  
George Harkness

And we whose names are Betty Harkness  
hereunto Subscribed being  
Present with Others at the  
Consummation of their said  
Marriage as witnesses thereunto  
set our hands the day and Year  
above Written

Nathan Richards  
Nath Southwick  
Elijah Harkness  
Shed Harkness  
Jesse Southwick  
David Southwick  
Stephen Basset  
Daniel Basset  
Wm Basset  
Israel Taber  
Noses Allen  
Betsy East  
Daniel Basset  
James Bralson  
Stephen Southwick  
George Southwick

Susanna Harkness  
Mary Southwick  
Sarah Basset  
Susanna Harkness  
Vanny Southwick  
Abigail Southwick  
Hannah Southwick  
Lydia Shearman  
Ellis Basset  
Martha Basset  
Rachel Mary  
Lucy Swickel  
Joanna Swickel

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting  
for 1804 - The

Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in  
London by the Government from the 1st  
of the Fifth Month to the 1st of the Sixth Month  
1804, inclusive

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings  
of Friends in Great Britain Ireland  
and Elsewhere



Dear Friends

It is not a light matter to undertake to give Counsel to the Society nor do we address you merely because it is a practice sanctioned by usage but Our minds have been much engaged in desiring for the Spiritual Welfare of the family and in considering the various means by which that welfare may be promoted or obstructed And dear friends Let us also remind you that it is not a Light matter to receive Counsel. & that we could fix upon your minds that we could livingly implant in your souls the sense we trust we are at this time endued with that it is the Master's will that his servants should advance in right counsels! Do not therefore read or hear with indifference these Our repeated Salutations of Love but treasure them in your hearts Lay them up as tokens of that Charity which endureth. Thus will Our absent brethren co-operate with the assembled Church in carrying on the work of reformation in promoting the Cause of Christ.

We have received at this Meeting epistles from all the Yearly Meetings on the American Continent except one and the usual accounts from the Quarterly and Other Meetings in these Nations Whereby we are informed of the present state of our Societies. In every Quarter there is some defect in duly supporting the testimony of truth but we have no cause to believe that the religious care to administer help is on the decline though often feebly exerted and amidst all the sorrow which we feel that it is so. it is comfort to observe that many seem convinced of our principles of whom a considerable number have lately joined the Society. Our Brethren in Pennsylvania and Maryland appear to have prospered much in their benevolent attempts to introduce



Amongst the Indians the comforts and benefits  
of Civilized life and of religious instruction  
The amount of sufferings brought in this year  
from Great Britain and Ireland is twelve  
thousand six hundred and thirty pounds of  
which about nine thousand three hundred and  
seventy pounds are for tithes priests demands  
and those called Church rates and three thousand  
and two hundred and sixty pounds for demands  
of a military nature. Several friends have suffered  
each three months imprisonment on the  
on the latter account.

Since we last met together in this City the trea-  
surer of war has increased and seeing we  
believe no people have a deeper sense of the calam-  
ity which war entails on mankind and the reproach  
which it is upon Christian name we may without  
the imputation of viewing it singly as it con-  
cerns ourselves inform you of our present feeling  
on the subject. Our general scruple to bear arms  
is well known and truly we are satisfied that our  
testimony in this respect is a testimony for  
Messiah of whose reign it is the glory that  
the Wolf and the Lamb shall feed together  
Altho' if not all people admit the transcendent  
excellency of peace. All who adopt the petition thy  
kingdom come pray for its universal establish-  
ment. Some people then must begin to  
fulfil the evangelical promise and cease to  
learn war any more. Now friends seeing  
these things cannot be controverted how do we  
long that your whole conversation be as becometh  
the gospel and that while any of us are profess-  
ing to scruple War they may not in some  
parts of their conduct be inconsistent  
with that profession. With this view

An error occurred in stating the amount of sufferings reported last year it  
appears that the sum was actually about £8906



We are concerned to renew our caution of the year 1798 namely We desire afresh to press upon all our members the necessity of a peacefull and innocent demeanour amongst men and especially let all be careful not to seek or accept profit by any concerns in the preparations so extensively making for war: for how reproachfully inconsistent would it be to refuse an active compliance with warlike measures; and at the same time not to hesitate to enrich ourselves by the commerce and other circumstances dependent on war Friends it is an awful thing to stand forth to the nation as the advocates of inviolable peace and our testimony loses its efficacy in proportion to the want of consistency in any, and we are at this time peculiarly called to let our light shine with clearness on account of the lenity shown us by Government and the readiness of magistrates to afford us all legal relief under suffering And we can serve our country in no way more availing nor more acceptably to Him who holds its prosperity at his disposal than by contributing all that is in us to increase the number of meek humble and self denying Christians.

From the same source from which naturally springs not only our testimony against War but an unblemished conduct towards our government and our Countrymen namely Obedience to the law of Christ arises also that stream of Love to the brotherhood which if suffered to flow in our hearts with unobstructed course would bear away all malice and guile and cease all complaints of talebearing and detraction to cease in our borders O the precious care that attends the mind in which Christian Charity is become habitual Charity saith the Apostle hopeth all things It divulgeth not the faults of Others because in its unbounded hope it desires their removal without exposure For the mind in which it dwells ascribes its Own preservation and the cleansing of its former sins to the unbounded Love of God in Christ Jesus and it prays that all may partake of the same benefit How Opposite that disposition which delights to report evil and to accuse than it dear Friends as the poison of assps. Even the sacred writings emphatically denominated the grand adversary of mankind



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by the name of Accuser of the brethren Follow  
therefore peace with all men and holiness without  
which no man shall see the Lord looking diligently  
lest any man fail of the grace of God lest any  
root of bitterness springing up trouble you and  
thereby many be defiled

Now dear friends you who know the truth and  
have experienced in good degree that it hath  
set you free from that to which you were by  
nature in bondage relax not your attention to  
its gentle motions: Lest whilst you are busy here  
and there you let any thing escape that is appointed  
for distraction such are all the practices and dispo-  
sitions which prevent you from becoming fully  
a chosen generation a Royal Priesthood a holy  
Nation a peculiar People that ye should  
show forth the praises of Him who hath called  
you out of darkness into his Marvellous light  
But a jealousy may we not say a holy  
jealousy hath attended our minds that some  
by not following on to know the Lord have ceased  
to preserve over their children and dependents  
the prevailing authority of good example some  
also by continuing to seek increasing possessions  
in this life have led their descendants as well  
as themselves into closer connection and fellow-  
ship with the spirit of the world Thus frequently  
in the next generation the traces of Christian simplici-  
ty and self-denial are lamentably defaced and in the  
succeeding one nearly obliterated. To this cause  
in a great degree may be ascribed the number  
of families amongst us who retain little but the  
name an evil of which as the remedy is difficult we  
serrantly desire to prevent the increase Lest it therefore  
to heart beloved Brethren lest you should inad-  
vertently contribute to this already extensive  
grievance



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And O that we could awaken some of you dear youth who have been educated in a Liberty which we deplore on your account because we believe that the gospel of Christ doth not allow it - that we could awaken you to serious reflection. If your rest should for a season be disturbed by the sense of sin of the danger of continuing in it and of the future judgement which is its portion you have no cause for utter dismay Help is laid on One that is mighty. The sense of our transgressions leads to prayer for his secret but Almighty help. And as you are careful to close in with the inward intimations of his will which are in fact the offers of his mercy he will give you in due season the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

In the narrow compass of an annual Epistle we cannot address all the States in the Society nor speak to all the subjects for which we feel concern. But since those subjects are not of a transient nature we recommend to Friends especially to our beloved youth occasionally to peruse again the Epistles of former years and not to lay by as things of temporary concernment those records of this Meetings engagement to promote their present and eternal well-being and to hold up a testimony to the gospel of Christ Jesus. To him therefore who died for us that we should live together with him we desire dear Friends to commend you. "Farewell Be perfect be of good comfort be of one mind Live in peace and the God of Love and peace shall be with you

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by  
John Merryweather  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year



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From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held  
at Richmond 7th Mo. 24th 1806.

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Smithfield  
Beloved Friends —

These may inform that Cyrus Basset a  
Member of Our Meeting requested Our Certificate  
of Removal to your Meeting. These may Certify on his behalf  
that whilst with us he was of an orderly  
Life and Conversation. Upon inquiry it appears  
that he has settled his outward affairs to satisfaction.  
We therefore recommend him to your Christian  
Care and Oversight —

Signed in and by Order of Our Said Meeting  
By Elijah Harkness Clerk

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Smithfield  
to Mo. 29th 1806

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Smithfield  
Dear Friends —

Ezekiel Cook & his wife Thankful having removed  
within the Limits of your Mo. Meeting and  
requested Our Certificate these Lines may  
Certify on their behalf that they are Members of  
Our Society of Orderly Lives and Conversation  
diligent attenders of Our Meetings & on enquiry we  
find not but they have settled their outward  
affairs to satisfaction — We therefore recommend  
them to your Christian Care and Oversight

Signed in and on behalf of our said Meeting

By Rowland B. Thburn Clerk

Anna Smith



Extracted from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting  
1806

The Committee on general Services made the following proposal for an alteration in our discipline  
Agreed for admitting convinced Persons into membership with us —

That they appear at a preparative Meeting when circumstances will admit of it & request to come under the care of Friends & if the preparative Meeting approve the same that they register in the Monthly Meeting thereof which is to be substituted instead of the fore part of the Minute of 1700, Page 21 the ending with the words "to be taken under their care" —

They further propose that the following Minute be substituted instead of the Minute of 1772 page 64.

It is our Sense and judgement that it is improper for Brothers Children, Sisters Children half Brothers Children or half Sisters Children to marry together and nearer than a first Cousins Child only and notwithstanding that we proceed to marry nearer than a first Cousins Child being previously examined and advised against it that the Monthly Meetings where such belong give forth a public testimony Against them & not to receive such into their Society until such Meetings are well assured that they have found a place of sincere repentance and are received in the truth —

Which after a full consideration is with the preceding proposal united with and they directed to be inserted in all our books of Discipline The former Under head Convinced persons and the latter Under head Marriage —

This Meeting hath approved of the line of division between Friends, Friends & Smiths. Quarterly Meetings as proposed by Smiths. Quarterly Meetings. This Meeting hath resolved to raise 700 Colles the money to be



Smithfield Quarterly Meeting is desired  
to forward you dollar their proportion thereof  
to our next Yearly Meeting —

Extracted from the Minutes of our Yearly  
Meeting held in Rhode Island by Adjournment  
from the 18th to the 19th of 6 mo. 1806

Shadiel Davis Clerk

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at  
Richmond in the State of New Hampshire by Adjournment  
the 26th of 2nd Mo. 1804 —

To the Quarterly & Other Meetings in Sandwich  
Quarter & some other Meetings in Rhode Island Quarter

Our Esteemed Friend Isaac Saben having laid  
before this us a Concern which he has for some time  
felt to perform a Religious Visit Among you  
& we taking the same into <sup>old</sup> consideration and having  
Unity with him therein do hereby certify on his  
behalf that he is a Minister in Unity with us and  
his Life and Conversation corresponding with his  
Profession as such we recommend him to your  
Brotherly Care and Sympathy Desiring when his Ser-  
vice is accomplished amongst you he may return  
to his family and Friends with the rewards of peace  
Signed in & on behalf of our said —

By Nathan Haskins } Clerk  
Phebe Saben - } for the  
day for the day

To the Monthly Meeting of Richmond

Dear Friends

Our beloved Friend

Isaac Saben attended our Last Quarterly Meeting  
with a Minute from your Meeting. He also att-



Attended Most of the particular Meetings hereto  
 belonging in which his Company and Services  
 have been acceptable

Signed in and by direction of Sandwich  
 Quarterly Meeting held at Nantucket the 30 of Nov.  
 1807 - Wm. Sawyer Wall Clerk

Extracts from Rhode Island Yearly Meeting held  
 by Adjournment from the 15th 8 Mo 1807 to the 17th  
 of the same inclusive. Rhode Island Quarterly  
 Meeting propose that their Quarterly Meeting be held  
 in future on the 1st 5th day, in the 8th Month at  
 Portsmouth 11th Month at Summerset 2nd Mo. at Providence  
 and 5th Mo. at East Greenwich which this Meeting unites  
 with and in Order that the times of holding Smithfield  
 Quarters do not Interfere with the times now fixed on for  
 Rhode Island Quarter that Quarter is Left at Liberty to  
 hold their Quarterly Meeting at such times and places  
 the ensuing Year as may appear best and Report  
 to this Meeting Next Year. It is the judgment of  
 this Meeting that Monthly Meetings have a right  
 in case of reversal of their judgements against  
 any Individual Member on account of Irregular  
 Dealings Only to take up the case again and proceed  
 according to Discipline and it is Recommended  
 to Superior Meetings to be careful where reversals  
 are Made (on account of Irregular Dealings only)  
 to express the same in their Reports. This is  
 directed to be inserted in all our Books of Discipline  
 Under the head of Appeals



To Richmond Monthly Meeting of Friends

Esteemed friends  
 Stephen Baker with his  
 family viz (Cate) his wife Dinah & Abraham his  
 Children have removed from here within the verge  
 of your Monthly Meeting and Request our Certificate  
 this may certify on their behalf that they are Mem-  
 bers of our Meeting and have settled their out-  
 ward affairs as far as appears as such we recom-  
 mend them to your Christian care - given forth at  
 our Monthly Meeting held at Bolton - and  
 signed in and on behalf of said Meeting  
 the 27th 5th mo 1807 By John Fay Jr } Clerks  
 Hannah Holder }

The London Epistle from London Yearly Meeting  
 for 1806 - The  
 Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London  
 by Adjournments from the 21 to the 31st of the  
 fifth Month 1806. inclusive -

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of  
 Friends in Great Britain, Ireland and Elsewhere

(Dear Friends,

We find in Meeting in this our  
 annual assembly a renewal of lively zeal for  
 promoting the righteousness which is of Christ and  
 for removing as far as in us lies the causes which  
 obstruct it we trust that our Meeting is not only



Professedly in his name but as we are given to  
 derive strength and encouragement in his cause from  
 the Mutual Communication of our feelings and  
 Exercises of Mind that he still owns us however unworthy  
 and grants us by being at times baptised into  
 the sense of our own weakness to seek with more  
 earnestness his Everlasting Strength. In the desire  
 therefore that he may be built up a People truly Christian  
 that Righteousness and peace (Rom. xiv 17) and peace  
 and joy in the holy Ghost may increase and abound  
 We again convey to you the salutation of Love Unfeigned  
 We beseech you to consider the holy Gradation of Righteousness  
 peace and joy and to mark that the first step is that most  
 Comprehensive Attainment Righteousness - Righteousness  
 is immutable Justice it Leaves no duties Unfulfilled.  
 Man has his full share of love from Man and God his  
 due reverence Adoration and praise Peace then flows as  
 a river and joy in the holy Spirit completes the gracious  
 purpose of Christian Redemption.

Happy is that People that is in such a case: <sup>Psalm cxlv</sup>  
 happy is that People whose God is the Lord -

But Friends though we are thus favoured to see and  
 to Approve things which are excellent yet when we review  
 the State of our Religious Society and scrutinise into the  
 Conduct of its Members we are often Obligated to Observe that  
 an enemy is at work that Earth sometimes Obtrudes into  
 the place of heaven And that Self-Love in many is more  
 conspicuous than self-denial You know that the Subjects  
 of our inquiry on these Occasions are Arranged under  
 different heads and that it becomes from time to time  
 our concern to remind you of your duty respecting  
 many of them When we ask the Question Is there  
 any growth in the Truth Modesty were there



these Nothing else Might occasion a doubtful reply  
 But Nothing needs prevent every Man endued with  
 the light of Christ in himself from endeavouring  
 to answer this Most important Query plainly by  
 to his Own Conscience As the Vigorow tree brings  
 forth its fruit in its season so if any Man grow in  
 the Truth he will bring forth the fruits of Truth  
 even the fruits of the Spirit so well described by  
 the apostle to the Gallatians (Gal. v. 22.) And  
 what obstructs this growth in any? We reply the love  
 of ease the dread of conflict. But as winter and  
 Storms promote the well-being of the Outward Creation  
 so tribulation and conflict improve the Christian  
 They have their appropriate and Appointed end in the work  
 of Sanctification They arise not out of the dust but are  
 sent or permitted in the proper seasons and whoever  
 seeks to escape without his share rejects the very  
 Means of his advancement and scarcely can hope to attain  
 his due Measure of the Spirit of the Father of Jesus  
 a state of which the same apostle speaks as attainable  
 by all - You beloved Brethren a subject a deeply inter-  
 esting subject hath intervened among our deliberations  
 on the State of our Society and its Long-felt importance  
 induces us to suffer it here also to interrupt the Course  
 of our Christian Counsel. No longer since than the last  
 year we excited your Attention afresh to the suffering  
 of the Africans and spoke of the continuance of the  
 cruel slave-trade as of an accumulation of Misery and  
 of Guilt How then do we <sup>now</sup> rejoice in having to  
 proclaim that this torrent of iniquity is arrested  
 in its progress <sup>an important portion of the trade has taken place</sup> that the annual enslaving of thousands  
 is prevented and that the prospect again opens  
 with increased brightness of a termination to  
 the wrongs of Africa! Let us therefore thank  
 God and take Courage and still persevere

2d. 1792  
 3d. 1792



in the support of those testimonies and practices  
 to which Christian love gives rise and which  
 Christ Requires of his Church And in Order that  
 we may be able to do this let Love pure uncor-  
 ruptible love reign in our hearts We have often  
 expatiated on this topic but yet we must Violate  
 our feelings if we suppose some further Obser-  
 vations on it at this time. Friends, remember,  
 Christian excellence and not attainable but by the  
 sacrifice of selfish passions. No degree of resentment  
 can consist with this state some persons are apt to  
 profess that they can forgive those whom they suppose  
 to have injured them when such are brought to know  
 and acknowledge their fault. But that is little else than  
 a disguised pride seeking for superiority. The Love which  
 Christ Commanded to his church goes farther than that  
 "This is my commandment that ye love One another ~~as~~  
 I have loved you." And how did the Lord love the world  
 At the Apostle answer "God commendeth his love toward  
 us." And friends mark and remember his gracious  
 dying words when praying for his very persecutors he  
 said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do"  
 And shall we expect accepts for our more feeble prayers  
 at the throne of grace if we harbour any ill will to  
 our fellow travellers towards immortality? Let us <sup>hear</sup> again  
 the voice of men: And when ye stand praying forgive  
 if ye have ought against any" He doth not allow time  
 for seeing the injuring person become submissive but  
 standing forgive for if ye do not forgive neither will  
 your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.  
 O the excellence of Christian Love and the temple of  
 forgiveness! It is the indispensable requisite in that  
 spiritual worship to which we as a people more  
 peculiarly bear testimony yea is it not the  
 very balm of life and the passport to heaven



Thus have we hinted at some of the leading characteristics of the Christian we have attempted to hold up the standard of Truth and we tenderly intrust all our friends who feel the necessity of measuring themselves by it and are in great degree exemplary persons themselves to be frequently attending to their respective gifts in order to be helpful to others for we are members one of another if we are really members of that body of which the head is Christ. This mutual care is a fundamental principle of our Christian discipline this mutual care hath brought us together at this time.

We have received this year epistles from all the Meetings with which this Meeting usually corresponds. The most remarkable feature in the intelligence which from these and other sources we receive respecting our Brethren in North America is the great and successful diligence of some of their Yearly Meetings in promoting the Civilization of the Indian Nations. We find that our Meeting for Sufferings has very properly diffused this intelligence among friends and impressing with a desire of co-operating in a work so benevolent, this Meeting has recommended a contribution to assist our American brethren in their very worthy pursuit and we doubt not that friends will cheerfully embrace this opportunity of testifying our Unity with their labours— Although as we have already remarked in the accounts which come up from the several branches of this Meeting we are affected with nothing various particular which we deplore yet we also are encouraged in Observances that the good cause remains dear to many that



that fresh instances offer themselves to view of  
Zeal in the Lord's Service and that some serious  
persons are still seeking to be united to us in  
consequence of Convincement

The amount of Sufferings brought in this Year  
is about ten thousand three hundred and fourteen pounds  
of which some part is for demands of a Military  
Nature but the Chief part ecclesiastical. And Friends  
while we are endeavoring to bear testimony against  
War Let us show by our inoffensive quiet demeanor  
that we are truly Children of Peace and while  
we refuse the claims of a priesthood from which we  
conscientiously dissent let us be diligent in  
Waiting on the great Minister of the true tabernacle

This you know friends is the purpose of our  
assembling together in Silence and though there  
is among us at times but little instrumental  
Ministry or none let not this produce any abatement  
of the diligence in the duty. Instrumental Ministry in  
the life and power of the gospel is a great favour to the  
Church but the distinguishing excellence of the Christian  
dispensation is the immediate Communication with our  
heavenly Father through the inward revelation of the  
Spirit of Christ. Let us therefore Brethren submit to  
the baptizing Operations of the holy Spirit which  
purify the Soul and produce the Capacity for Communion  
with God.

Now "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love  
of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be  
with you all. Amen.

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting by  
Arnee Frank Clerk to the Meeting this Year



To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Melbridge  
 Beloved Friends

Willard Abick a Member of <sup>our</sup> Monthly Meeting  
 has Removed within the Verge of your Meeting  
 and Requested our Certificate There are therefore  
 to Certify on his behalf that on inquiry we find  
 that his Affairs are settled to satisfaction Amongst  
 us As such we recommend him to your Christian  
 Care and Oversight given forth from our at our  
 Monthly Meeting held at Richmond and  
 signed in and by Order of said meeting By  
 31st 3 Mo 1808 Elijah Hartness Clerk

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting  
 for 1807 —

The Epistle from the  
 Yearly Meeting Held in London

By Adjournment, from the 20th to the 29th of the  
 fifth Month, 1807 inclusive

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings  
 of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland, and  
 Elsewhere Dear Friends —

Receives, we beseech you, the salutation of our  
 Undiminished and renewed love may we not  
 reverently say of our love in the gospel of Christ.  
 For we desire to be as the Messengers of good tidings  
 to assure you to increasing degrees of dedication  
 to the cause of Truth, and to make you partake of  
 the encouragement which we are most fully  
 allowed to feel, by meeting thus together



as with one accord. But though we have again  
 cause to confess that there is strength in the Union  
 of exercise in a joint engagement of spirits, we also  
 intreat you to remember that the same Lord over  
 all is rich unto all that call upon him. We believe  
 that a frequent application of heart to the Lord is the  
 practice of Friends in their remote abode, that  
 he will enrich them with due portions of his wisdom  
 and strength. Thus will he restrain in them the  
 dispositions which tend towards the World, he will  
 invigorate those which have their origin and accom-  
 plishment in heaven, and he will even make glad  
 for them the solitary place. On the particular  
 inspection this year into the state of our religious  
 Society, various Objects tending to its Welfare have  
 engaged our Attention; some of which we shall  
 endeavor briefly to lay before you. But first we  
 are inclined to express our thankfulness for an  
 event which concerns not us only, but innum-  
 erable multitudes of our fellow-creatures—Our  
 fellow-possessors of the faculty of reason—Our fellow  
 Objects of the redemption which comes by Christ.  
 We scarcely need name the Abolition of the  
 Slave-trade. We view it as one of the most impor-  
 tant Acts of public, National righteousness, which  
 ever dignified the Councils of any government and  
 our minds have been directed in secret prayer  
 to the Almighty parent of the Universe, that he  
 may be pleased to regard this Kingdom for good  
 and direct its future Councils to such further  
 Acts of justice and mercy as may promote his  
 glory in the harmony of his rational Creation.  
 We may also here mention that we learn by the Account  
 which we have received from our brethren in Amer-  
 ica, that their Attention is assisting some  
 of the Indian nations to attain to the benefits



of ~~Civilization~~ ~~Civilization~~ is still continued with  
 Vigour and with increasing success. We are gratified  
 with being informed of the Contribution which  
 Friends in this Nation have raised in Order to  
 participate in this work of benevolence Six thousand  
 pounds of it are already put in train to be rem-  
 itted to America; about nine hundred more are  
 ready to follow, and We have Cordial Assurance  
 from Our friends abroad that they will readily  
 take upon them the administration of this service.  
 Which we trust will not only prosper to the  
 advancement of Our Indian brethren in the  
 scale of Civil life; but, like the gift of (2d.  
 2 Cor. ix.) Mentioned by the Apostle, may be abundant  
 also, by many thanksgivings unto God. Now, dear  
 friends, seeing Christian duty is not a complex  
 system, but consists of a few and simple parts  
 it cannot be expected that great Variety should  
 be found in the subjects, on which, from time  
 to time, We are induced to address you. It is  
 a peculiar glory of the gospel that it remains  
 the same. Love to God and Love to Our Neighbour  
 are its grand and primary divisions; Each  
 harmonizing with the other; Neither subsisting apart  
 So the latter We immediately refer the general  
 care which Our Christian discipline promotes; and  
 we believe it is also the ground of that more  
 private, but not less beneficial care, which we  
 long to see subsisting in vigour in Christian  
 families. You know our Annual inquiry. Our  
 Friends endeavour by example and precept  
 to train up their Children, Servants and



those under their care in a religious life and conversation consistent with our Christian profession. The query then descends to four particulars, all of them indeed important, but we now hint at them only to observe that, important and indispensable as we believe they are for us, they are not to be made the sole criterion for judging whether religious education has been duly and successfully given. Consider dear friends, what subjection of spirit, what care of conduct, and what self-restraint go to make up a good example: tempered, as it should be with sweetness of manner, seconded by holy firmness, and recommended by its being manifest that yourselves are "seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." These are truly great, but they are attainable objects; and equally the duty of every one who lays claim to the Christian character: for though all are not called to the same stations in the militant Church, all are invited to heaven; and the general terms of invitation are alike to all. O Friends, did we all thus seek and attain to the things that are excellent: precepts, impressive precepts would not be withheld. Love would inspire it, prudence would direct it both as to season and quantity, and what reason have we not for hoping that the Lord himself would render it availing by his blessing? Our query, as we have said, then descends to particulars: of which we shall only now advert to one and that, because it hath renewedly at this time occupied our attention, called forth expressions of the sense of several brethren, and furnished our meeting with no inconsiderable subject of conversation. We believe there is an



increased attention in Friends in various parts, not  
 only to promote in their families the frequent reading  
 of the holy scriptures, but <sup>to</sup> make it the employment  
 of a portion of time daily. We commend this  
 practice, and we believe that if the ~~heads~~ of  
 families are careful in cultivating the seed of  
 truth in themselves, there will be so little danger of  
 the custom becoming formal, that it will not  
 unfrequently be <sup>the</sup> means of quickning the minds  
 of those concerned in it; more especially if a sub-  
 sequent pause be allowed; in order that the sac-  
 red truths which have been read may have time  
 to make their due impression on the mind; or that  
 the mind may have time to rise in secret aspi-  
 ration after a blessing. We find, at this as at  
 other times, that several persons have been added  
 to us by conviction. We desire it may also  
 have been by conversion, from form to power. Such  
 truly convinced and converted, are an strength to  
 us. They know the sacrifice which they have  
 made for their present condition, and value it ac-  
 cordingly. They have bought the truth, and are so  
 far from desiring to sell it, that they are con-  
 cerned that others should possess the same enjoy-  
 ment. But we are sometimes grieved that per-  
 sons finding their way, and probably through  
 self-denial, into our society, do not always retain  
 their ground. The salt doth not always retain  
 its savour. In tenderness therefore of heart we  
 intreat the newly convinced not to esteem  
 their admission as a period of rest from conflict.  
 It rather requires a deeper exercise. And



We beseech Friends among whom such may dwell to treat them with great circumspection as well as kindness. beware of hurting them by any ill example. they may be offended, and if they are sincere they are in the number of those whom we are cautioned not to offend. On the other hand they are tender and inexperienced, and they may be laden with the concerns of our discipline faster than their strength will bear. Thus, <sup>Friends</sup> On every occasion we see that sound judgement and sound practice requires depth and solidity. Let us then keep in view, and earnestly desire to be endued with that discernment which is the means, under direction of the holy head, of edifying the body of Christ.

The amount of the suffering which have this year been reported to this meeting, from our several Quarterly and other meetings, and from Ireland, is upwards of ten thousand nine hundred pounds: chiefly on accounts of tithes and those called Church rates, and also for sundry demands of a Military nature.

Before we conclude we are disposed to turn our attention to your dear youth who are rising up to manhood. To you we would extend a tender, yet <sup>an</sup> earnest invitation. We are interested in your happiness. The Church will have need of your help, and there is nothing that we desire more for you, than to see you advancing in ranks of righteousness, to the Christian warfare. And your qualification will lie in humility and meekness. Seeing it is the meek whom the Lord teacheth



his way. But, dear young Men, in this very meeting we have been made to lament, because so many of you evidently prefer the gratifications of nature which is corrupt, and which tends to corruptions, to the Cross of Christ which corrects its hurtful propensities, and leads to "the grace of God which bringeth Salvation." Many of you have a degree of love to our holy Cause. Why then will you pursue a line of conduct which tends to lay it waste? Do not despise the counsel of experience. Many have tried the path which some of you tread, and have found it lead to distress; and happy are those whose course is interrupted, and who do not persist in their progress, before it lead to small distress,

But though we thus speak, there are also many of our beloved youth, who are rising and risen into the state of maturity, of whom we are persuaded "better things, and things that accompany Salvation." Dear young friends of whatever rank, sex, or station, it is cordial to behold you, it is cordial to salute you in the fellowship of the gospel and to bid you God Speed. Hold on your way turn not aside to the right hand or the left. You may have tribulation, but be of good cheer Your holy Leader hath Overcome the World. Thus, when some of those who now address you shall be held no more in this scene of conflict, but if they continue faithful will partake of the joy of their Lord, and of your Lord, you may stand in their places with holy firmness, be a blessing to succeeding Generations



and show forth the praises of Him who hath called  
you out of darkness into his marvellous Light.  
Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by  
James Baker

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Smith-  
field 3rd Mo 31st 1808 -

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Richmond  
(Dear Friends, George Pilley and  
his Wife Coryiah with their Children namely Sam-  
son Lett Smith Eliza Abigail and Chloe have remo-  
ved to Delham within the Verge of your Monthly  
Meeting and requested our Certificate these lines  
are to Certify that they are Members in a good Tra-  
ce of Orderly Lives when with us and have settled  
their outward Affairs to Satisfaction as far as app-  
ears as such we recommend them to your Christi-  
an Care and Oversight -

Signed in and on Behalf of our Above said  
Meeting 13th - Rowland Bathurn {  
Alice Bathurn { Clerk

Extracts from the Minutes of Rhode Island Yearly  
Meeting held from 11th of 6th Mo 1808 to the 15th  
at the same inclusive - This Meeting having concluded  
to raise Eight Hundred Dollars for the ensuing years Stock  
Smithfield Quarterly Meetings proportion thereof is  
Eighty Dollars which is to be forwarded to Caleb  
Green of Providence Treasurer of this Meeting  
The proposition of Smithfield Quarter for



holding that Meeting in future at Bolton on  
the 2nd fifth day of the eight month at Leicester in  
the Eleventh Month, at Smithfield in the second  
Month and at Northbridge in the fifth month  
all on the second, fifth day of each month  
is decreed to Samuel Bradman Clerk

Extracts from the Minutes of the Quarterly  
Meeting, It appear by the Extracts from the  
Yearly Meeting that our proportion of the Yearly  
Stock is Eighty Dollars, the monthly Meetings  
are Directed to forward their proportion of sd Stock  
to our Treasurer in the same proportion of Last Year  
and an account thereof to this Meeting.

Extracted from the Quarterly Meeting's Minutes  
held at Bolton 10th of 8<sup>th</sup> Mo 1808 by  
Zadock Smith Clerk

Bolton Monthly Meeting made the following  
proposition viz for the select members of each  
Monthly meeting to constitute a preparative select  
Meeting which is decreed to and the select mem-  
bers belonging to Northbridge Richmond and Bolton  
Monthly Meetings are directed to hold their select  
preparative Meetings in future accordingly and  
the Clerk is directed to furnish sd Meetings  
with a copy of this minute -

Extracted from the Minutes of Smithfield  
Quarterly Meeting held at Leicester 11th Mo  
10th 1808 By Gideon Howry Assistant Clerk



The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting  
Held in London by Appointment from  
the 10th to the 27th of the Fifth Month 1800  
inclusive;

to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings  
of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland and  
Elsewhere:—

Dear Friends,

We are disposed again to pursue the  
Current of Christian good will, which has  
so often induced us to furnish you with a Written  
Memorial of Our Concern and love for Our brethren  
dispersed in their various allotments in this Kingdom  
and elsewhere; and thus to fix, for your advantage,  
some trace of those impressions which while review-  
ing the present state of Our Society, have been made  
on Our minds. If we are at all instruments in the hand  
of the Lord to comfort the feeble minded among you to  
Ther. "Support the Weak" to encourage the upright, or to draw  
1/14 the Careless; we pray that he, by his almighty influence  
may firmly establish in your hearts every good purpose  
to which our words may excite you; and bless every step  
of consolation which he may enable us to hand forth.  
Thus, dear friends again we salute you in love—in  
gospel love. How animating is the ability to consider  
Ourselves the Common Children of one benevolent and  
all-powerful parent, to depend upon him for Our own  
preservation, and to implore him for that of our Neighbour!  
Surely! shall we not thus draw nigh to the accomplishment  
of those eternal commands, "Thou shalt love the Lord  
thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul  
x 27 and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind  
and thy neighbour as thy self?"

The accounts which we have received at this  
Meeting respecting the present state of Our



religious Society, in the several Quarterly Meetings continue to affect us with the relation of divers instances of remissness in religious duty, which do not meet with their due share of admonition. Nevertheless we believe that in other cases, the diligence of upright friends, to give counsel where it is chiefly necessary, has produced effects which should encourage perseverance. The spirit which tends to scatter and destroy diligence vigilantly withstood is continually at work, and we request you beloved brethren, to continue diligent, and not to be satisfied with any former exertions whilst the lamented evils remain. We call upon you by that love and compassion which, if you are in your places, you must feel for the negligent, not to slacken in your endeavours to stir them up to diligence. Be persevering and patient. —

“Establish your hearts:— This exhortation has been drawn from us by more than a feeling, that if we are in the frequent neglect of our religious Meetings, we are suffered too long to remain without counsel. Counsel we know may be disregarded: but blessed is he who under the holy influence of Love, having dispensed it in due season, can feel himself clear of owing any thing to his brother on this account.

Our concern for the preservation of brotherly love remains strong and unabated. When assembled at this Meeting we have special cause to know the insinuating working efforts of it. Therefore we have no other instrument, we should still be directed from time to time to advise our earnest and pressing exhortation, that it may abound and flourish in our dear brethren in religious profession and unity, even in a small degree polluted



the mind and render it unfit to approach  
 with simplicity that grace and holy Being of  
 whom the beloved disciple thus emphatically  
 testifies, "God is Love" &c. is not peculiarly lan-  
 guant the under spirit of this in which the spirit  
 of contention is even now occasioning to suffering  
 humanity & this though it differ in degree & in  
 degree from the same root & principle it is the  
 therefore a people abhorrent of war if they are  
 consistent, will watch against the even that be  
 of enmity as it is conceived on any occasion in  
 the heart. And the man who in the School of  
 Christ hath learned the useful lesson of self-  
 denial, will often make a sacrifice of his own  
 will and opinions though he may esteem them  
 to be right, rather than persist in them at the  
 expense of Christian fellowship.

It is much in the power of those who have the  
 care of young children to prepare their minds for  
 the salutary restraints of the usage of Christ  
 and those who thus co-operate with his Holy Spi-  
 rit, which early visits the tender and pliable  
 mind - may expect (and what to them can they  
 expect) his all-sufficient blessing upon them-  
 selves and their offspring. Therefore, ye fathers  
 and ye Mothers, let us entreat you to consider  
 the salutary suggestion of the will as the first  
 step in education. It will generally insure  
 to you that desirable ascendancy over the  
 minds of your children which will prevent  
 the mind of future severity, it will enable you to  
 govern them by love and thus you will be saving  
 your own day more easily, at the same time  
 that you are raising the souls and friends  
 We beseech you at their understanding.



ripen to take the opportunities of opening  
 to them the benefits of the restraints which your  
 duties lay upon to improve. Among some of  
 the most important is the lively Suppositions  
 & Youth are often those which relate to affluence  
 and dress. But we know that the ground of  
 our dissent from the world in these things is  
 Christian Simplicity; do we know by experience  
 that they are often the means of defence against  
 temptation to mingle in the company of  
 such as not being thus subject to holy restraints  
 are unwaitable examples for our youth to observe  
 and to follow. — But when by the gentle influence  
 of Truth in their ripening understandings they  
 are entered on a course of self-denial, they will  
 feel you doubly dear to them for having led them  
 on the way they should go and will be to the  
 Lord in your behalf.

We have we again touched upon some of the  
 most important Objects of the Constant Care of this  
 Meeting and indeed of all those who desire to  
 see our Society builded up as a City that is com-  
 pact together "Jerusalem" saith the prophet  
 is builded as a City that is compact together  
 Whither he says "go up the tribes of the Lord unto  
 the testimony of David."

We may now turn from Subjects which concern  
 every state in life and direct the course of our Chris-  
 tian counsel to the state more in particular and per-  
 sons who are not interested with much of the profession  
 of this Life, you are still the Objects of our con-  
 stant care. The Society has long endeavoured to



consult your interests and to place within  
 your reach whatever is necessary for your  
 welfare, and for that of your Offspring and you  
 are equally the care of Him who provides for the  
 sparrows: to his ear your appeals is as easy as  
 that of any condition amongst men and if by  
 his holy assistance, and by a conformity to  
 his will you become truly poor in Spirit

Mark your is the kingdom of heaven. But dear  
 v. 3. Friends, suffer us to remind you that there is not  
 a passion that can infect the richer which  
 may not also, in a degree subversive of your  
 peace be fostered in your minds you may love  
 and give way to pride and anger and to all the  
 1 Tim. "evil and lustful lusts which draw men in  
 VI 9 destruction and perdition." Therefore do you par-  
 take of the universal necessity of paying strict  
 attention to Christ's sacred injunction when, add-  
 Mark  
 xiii 27, resuming himself to his immediate followers he  
 closed his address with those memorable words "What  
 I say unto you I say unto all Watch"

As for you dear friends, who occupy what are  
 termed the middle Stations of life you have every  
 cause to sleep the Lord for the Sphere in which he  
 hath permitted you to move. In your solemn fulfilment  
 the wish of Agur "Give me neither poverty nor riches  
 Prov. feed me with food convenient for me, lest I be full  
 xxv 16 and deny thee, and say who is the Lord, or lest I be  
 Door and steal, and take the name of my God  
 in Vain" Among your number the Society has often  
 found many of its most useful members, of its more  
 able advocates. Be content therefore with your Stations.

Seek not great things for yourselves; yea "Mind not  
 Rom. high things; but condescend to men of low estate." But  
 xii 15 above all things, "Follow on to know the Lord;" or if  
 you have not known him and served him fully  
 and faithfully, seek him "with a perfect



heart, and "with a willing mind," for "if you  
 can seek him, he will be found of you," and you  
 will remain to be as many of you have been  
 supports of the building, unto the protecting presence  
 of the Lord; who is the sole and true builder of  
 his spiritual house the house of prayer for  
 all people. And you who are intrusted with much  
 of the good things of this life, you who cannot  
 disclaim the title of affluent, we believe there are  
 among you many good stewards of the temporal  
 things committed to your Trust; yet we desire  
 that others may duly consider whether they are so  
 "rich in faith," as to be "rich in the kingdom,"  
 being fruitful in those good works which are  
 produced by faith. Though friends you may  
 not have to labour with your hands, the cause  
 of Truth has business of importance for you  
 to do and it may be promoted or obstructed by  
 the right or wrong application of your property.  
 Much responsibility lies on you; your prop-  
 erty is an additional Article in the Account,  
 and we much desire that you may be so  
 awake to a sense of those things as to be  
 prepared to render up your Accounts with joy,  
 and to receive the answer of "Well done." The  
 poor and the rich have their appropriate virtues;  
 and, at the same time that each is required  
 to be content and to be humble we believe it  
 may be truly said that as contentment  
 is a peculiar Ornament of the poor so is hum-  
 ility of the rich. Your Station in life subjects  
 you more than others to be tried by associating



with other wealthy persons among the people at large with whom the cause of Christ is often in too little esteem. You may be leavened by their conversation and example; and it may operate still more visibly and rapidly upon your children. Therefore we tenderly entreat you for your own sake or that of your offspring

Whom you are bound to protect and for the sake of the Cause of Truth - We entreat you,

James  
xiii  
1-5.

dear friends we beseech you "by the mercies of God Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For," continues the Apostle "I say through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the Measure of Faith."

But, how shall we address a State lamentably to be found in every condition of life; and from which few places are wholly free - that State which despises counsel and places itself almost out of the reach of advice. Dear but mistaken friends it is difficult to speak to your State, but we may pray to the Father of Mercies that he would in mercy plead with you. And we beseech you take time to be serious. Be solicitous about your eternal Well-being. The restraint of the Spirit of Truth is the armour that protects the Soul; and if you will not be invested with it, you are open to the repeated and increasing assaults of the destroyers; and how wilt



will you at length be prepared and found worthy  
 to stand before the Son of Man?"

In this meeting we have received Epistles from our American brethren in most of the States, shewing the continuance of their zeal in the cause of righteousness, and encouraging us to perseverance; the particulars of any of which it does not seem needful now to detail. The amount of the sufferings of Friends this Year in Great Britain and Ireland, chiefly for letters, those called Church rates, and military demands, is upwards of eleven thousand seven hundred and seventy pounds; and we are to have been imprisoned for not having found substitutes in the Militia. But we are by no means inclined to complain of the conduct of Magistrates; on the contrary we believe in many places there is a disposition in the hearts of Magistrates which induces them to protect us from suffering to the utmost limit of the law; and we desire that Friends may, on their part, by a meek and peaceable conduct always insure and never forfeit, their good Opinion in so conducting ourselves, we adorn our profession and suffer our light to shine.

Now dear friends of every rank, State and Condition, let us endeavour to be one in the Lord; that he may shower down of his Mercies gifts and grace upon all. This will keep each in his proper place



The young will be mild Submissive and teachable; and will become early acquainted with that power which is their only safe Conductor through life, and their hope in death. These are near to Our hearts. The very remembrance of them wake up Our tenderest feelings and prompts Our prayer to the Lord for their preservation. The Middle-aged will stand firm in their day, as watchmen upon the Walls and as Valiants, having on the armour of light, to withstand the attacks of the enemy. And the Aged will have to rejoice both in retrospective and prospective view. The past will recall to their gladdened remembrance the numberless mercies of the Lord; and the future through the power of an endless life and the redeeming Virtue of Christ Jesus our Lord will open to them the prospect, and satisfy them with the assurance, of being his for ever, Amens.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting  
by John Withimson

Clerk to the Meeting this year



# Marriage Certificate of Uriah Gilson <sup>25</sup>

Uriah Gilson of Cumberland son of  
Uriah Gilson of Cumberland in the County  
of Providence and State of Rhode Island  
and Elizabeth his wife, And Mary Taft  
Daughter of Peleg Taft of Richmond in the  
County of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire  
and Susanna his wife, having declared  
their intentions of taking each other  
in Marriage before several Monthly Meetings  
of the People called Quakers, in  
the County of Cheshire according to the good  
Order used among them; their proceedings  
after due enquiry and deliberate consideration  
thereof were allowed by the said Meetings  
they appearing clear of all others and  
having consent of parents.

Now these are to certify all whome it  
may concern, that for the full accomplishing  
of their said intentions this  
twenty second day of the Ninth Month  
in the Year of Our Lord one Thousand eight  
hundred and Nine they the said Uriah  
Gilson and Mary Taft appeared at a  
publick assembly of the aforesaid people  
and others in their Meeting house in  
Richmond and he the said Uriah Gilson  
taking the said Mary Taft by the hand  
did openly declare as followeth.

(Friends



Friends I take this my friend Mary Taft to be my Wife promising through divine assistance to be unto her a Loving and faithful husband untill it shall please the Lord by death to separate us. and the said Mary Taft did then and there in like manner declare as followeth Friends I take this my friend Uriah Gilson to be my husband promising through divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithful wife untill it shall please the Lord by death to separate us. Or words of the like import: And the said Uriah Gilson and Mary Taft as a further Confirmation thereof have hereunto set their hands the after the Custom of marriage assuming the Name of her Husband

Uriah Gilson Junr

And we whose names are hereunto subscribed being present with others at the Consummation of their said marriage as witnesses thereunto set our hands the day and year above written

Mary Gilson

Deleg Taft  
Israel Saben  
Nathan Harkness  
Emack Southwick  
Elijah Harkness  
Paul Gilson Junr  
Darling Saben  
Job Birbee  
Paul Gilson  
Deleg Taft Jr  
Clark Gilson

Lucy Taft  
Susanna Taft  
Nancy Southwick  
Mary Southwick  
Betsy Harkness  
Susanna Harkness  
Sarah Bullack  
Rachel Gilson  
Rachel Twichel  
Solley Capps  
Theb Saben  
Abigail Southwick  
Lydia Allen  
Lucy Twichel  
Sarah Buffum  
Martha Basset  
Mercy Gilson



The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting  
 will be sent to the Yearly Meeting  
 held in London by Appointment on  
 the 14th of the Fifth Month to the 1st of the  
 Sixth Month 1847 inclusive  
 to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings  
 of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland and Ex-  
 where (Dear Friends—

In turning Our attention to you in your various  
 statements We are encouraged to offer you this  
 testimonial of Our love, which is felt to be the  
 blessed consequence of Our endeavour to serve  
 the Lord from whom it Springs. We desire that  
 you also may be furnished and replenished with  
 his greatest of spiritual gifts. It will contr but  
 to shorten life; and through the efficacy of redeem-  
 ing mercy it will turn death of its terror.  
 In pursuit, however, of this good of great price  
 opposition will arise, having your state of  
 probation, yet be not be dismayed, but be patient  
 Behold the Husbandmen waiteth for the precious  
 fruit even of the earth and hath long patience  
 for it, so that he receive the early and latter rain  
 Be ye also patient. Remember that the fruit  
 which you seek, is not only peace, in such pro-  
 portion as the Lord shall see meet to bestow  
 in time; but peace, in eternal fulness, with him  
 for ever.

The Subjects of Our Care, in this Meeting have  
 been conducted with much of that brotherly



Love and tender compassion which our Christian  
principals enjoy, and we have been permitted  
from time to time to experience that a sym-  
ptom of mercy which induces us to believe that  
our Meetings are still favored by our holy head  
and high priest Christ Jesus.

Our present engagements have been similar  
to those which have had our attention in preceding  
Meetings. At our last we believed it right to  
appoint a special Committee to urge our Monthly and  
Quarterly Meetings to stir up those to whom  
is intrusted the care of children and young people  
to a conscientious discharge of that sacred duty.  
We are now disposed to express our warm desire  
that the Spirit may cooperate with our concerns  
in being willing early and seriously to watch  
over their own Conduct by the help of that "true  
light" which is not withheld from the humble  
sinner. Dear young friends be not only willing to sub-  
mit to the gentle admonition and rebuke of those  
who desire for you above every other attainment  
and growth in the holy fear and love of God, but be  
watchful even over your own thoughts <sup>for thought is the spring</sup>  
of action. Out of the heart, as was observed by our  
Savior Lord, proceed those evil practices which defile  
the man. And if you should as yet be startled  
at the suppression of defilements, let us urge in  
earnest language, that in the heart are con-  
ceived those evil propensities, which, if unrestrained,  
will mar the work of sanctification. Above all  
do not forget or neglect to let your trials arise  
in frequent supplication to the presence of him  
who hears the prayer of the humble, and is well  
pleased with the dedication of youth to the



sacrifice of the beginning of your strength.

A part of the Object of the advice which we have mentioned as having been the late reason of this meeting to give to parents was to train up their families in plainness and to omit the expensive word. At this time, on reviewing the Subject, a fear has prevailed among us that not a few of our friends and even those who take part in our discipline have not been sufficiently exemplary; particularly in the furniture of their houses. It seems therefore right to caution all against giving way in this respect to the passions and often costly passions of the age. Though it is a weakness which does not seem to flavor so much of personal pride, as does vain attire; yet it speaks a mind engaged with trifles and a fondness for show which is inconsistent with the Christian Character; and its disqualification for duty admits of such a way open to further ~~degrees~~ degrees of extravagance.

The amount of the suffering of Friends of which an account has been this year brought to the meeting, from Great Britain and Ireland, is upwards of thirteen thousand pounds. They are principally for tithes, priests' demands, and those called church-wardens and a considerable part for military demands. A few young men have suffered a temporary imprisonment under the militia laws. We retain an unabated concern that Friends must be strengthened to support



on principle. Our testimony against a  
 man, not depending on the direct open-  
 ing of the Spirit of Christ on the heart, and  
 supported by pecuniary means. We believe  
 also that this testimony to the purity of gen-  
 uine and free gospel ministry, strongly  
 evinces that the formation of our Society  
 was not an effort of human wisdom;  
 neither is there any thing nor calcula-  
 ted to sap our foundations, and render us  
 a degenerate church, than a general depar-  
 ture from this principle.

We are inclined also, dear Friends, to draw  
 your attention to the root of our testimony  
 against War. It is no other than Christian  
 love and that righteou<sup>ness</sup> which produces  
 peace, quietness, and perpetual assurance  
 as its natural fruit. This drives the mind  
 away from those passions and desires in  
 which are laid the foundations of contests. Let  
 us then frequently examine our hearts,  
 let us prove our own selves, and see how  
 far the seed of contention withers, and a  
 resignation to suffer is cherished there. And  
 since as we have mentioned some of our friends  
 who have suffered, and more may probably  
 suffer in the future, we are deeply desiring  
 that they may walk consistently with this  
 testimony in every respect: Showing by their  
 conduct that they truly follow a Master who  
 was holy, harmless, undefiled and separate  
 from sinners.

At this Meeting, as at former ones, we  
 have received letters from our brethren in  
 the several Society Meetings in South Wales.



America, and One from that of Ireland on  
 the Continent. These Meetings appear gener-  
 ally attentive to the important concerns of  
 religious society; a care to sympathize with  
 the oppressed Objects of slavery remains;  
 and we believe will remain as long as the  
 evil exists; and the more recent engagement  
 of some of these yearly Meetings, to diffuse  
 the benefits of civilization among the native  
 Indian tribes of America, subsists in unabated  
 Vigor. The account from Ireland is encouraging,  
 and induces an animating hope, not only that  
 the yearly Meetings there is favoured with great  
 and disinterested, but that many individuals  
 are under a preparation of heart to become  
 advocates of our Christian testimonies and principles.

In the silent lapse of time, several of those who  
 have long been endeavouring to support the Cause  
 of Truth, and some who have been wont to meet  
 with so far that purpose in this annual as-  
 sembly have attained the limit of their allotted  
 probation, and we humbly trust are safely  
 raised beyond the reach of sorrow. ~~and we~~

Such work we have again at this Meeting  
 received. We give an impressive account. We perceive the appearance  
 of men which this annual conference; but we  
 may be animated in viewing their peaceful close. How  
 they approach the confines of that life which  
 their hearts were filled with hope and their tongues employed in  
 their last proclamation, praise. We do not see the beginning  
 of a song, of which the melody is unlimited and  
 the variation eternal. "The Lord is my strength-pole  
 and Song, and is become my Salvation."

We are also comforted in viewing from year to year  
 and not often more than the present year  
 succession arisen and arising of such as



appear to be endeavouring to serve the Lord in  
 uprightness of heart: Some in One way, and  
 some in another: in the Lords service there is  
 employment for every talent with which he  
 has endowed his peculiar man; each should  
 be employed in the proper and allotted depart-  
 ment; and all to his praise. "There are divers-  
 ities of gifts, with the apostle but the same  
 Spirit." Having therefore no reason to think  
 that the great Head of the Church hath presen-  
 ted us, but that he is still willing us his  
 hearts stand open to him to qualify for judg-  
 ment for Counsellors, let us endeavour, by his  
 gracious assistance, and with unceasing prayer  
 to him for that holy help to hold our course.  
 And you tender youths, get in that most critic-  
 al time of life, in which men often receive  
 the bias which forms them into Servants  
 of their God, or Wages them away from his fear  
 and sometimes almost irretrievably: let us  
 again, in Conclusion, press you to ponder the  
 path of your feet. The earlier you are devoted  
 to his service the better servants you will  
 be. And he is served in little things and  
 not in those only which appear great and highly  
 beneficial to others. But what attainment  
 is greater than to be able in a pure heart to say  
 "Thy will be done?" and this, by the Spirit of  
 him who taught his immediate followers  
 after this manner to pray. May be attained  
 even in childhood. It will be a most precious  
 morning sacrifice to the Lord, who hath given  
 you life; Who stands ready to pay faithfully  
 serve him, to store it with blessings



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and who can finally crown it with a  
peaceful immortality.

Signed in and on behalf of the  
Meeting by  
John Withinson

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

Wish Withinson Certificate for the purpose of  
Marriage

From Our Monthly of Friends held at  
Smithfield 27<sup>th</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> Mo 1809

Dear Friends

Wish Withinson your having  
requested our Certificate in Order to proceed  
in Marriage with Mary Teft a Member  
of your Monthly Meeting - We therefore  
certify on his behalf that he is a Member  
of our Society and clear of other Marriage  
Engagements and has had Consent of Par-  
ents to proceed as above mentioned

Signed by direction of the aforesaid Meeting

By Rowland Rathbun Clerk



## Marriage Certificate of Elijah Harkness

Elijah Harkness of Richmond in the County of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire son of Nathan Harkness of Richmond in the County and State aforesaid and Susanna his Wife and Martha Bassett daughter of William Bassett of Richmond in the County and <sup>State</sup> aforesaid and Mary cry his Wife - having declared their intentions of taking each Other in Marriage before several Monthly Meetings of the People called Quakers in the County of Cheshire according to the good Order used amongst them their proceedings after due inquiry and deliberate consideration thereof were allowed by the said Meetings they appearing clear of all Other and having consent of Parents and Others concerned - Now these are to certify all Whome it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their said intentions this twenty fifth day of the first Month in the Year of Our Lord 1810 - they the said Elijah Harkness and Martha Bassett appeared at a publick assembly of the aforesaid people and Other in their Meeting house in Richmond and he the said Elijah Harkness taking the said Martha Bassett by the hand did Openly declare as follows

I intend to take this my friend Martha Bassett to be my Wife promising through Divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful Husband Untill it shall please the Lord <sup>by death</sup> to Separate Us - And the said Martha Bassett did then and there in like Manner declare as followeth - Friends -



Friends I take this my Friend Elijah Harkness  
to be my husband promising through divine  
christianity to be unto him a loving and faithful  
Wife until it shall please the Lord  
by death to separate us or Kings of the like  
import and the said Elijah Harkness and  
Martha Bassett as a further Confirmation  
thereof have hereunto set their hands the  
after the Custom of Marriage Assuming  
the Name of her Husband

Am & whose names are  
hereunto subscribed;  
being present with them  
at the Consummation of their  
said Marriage as Witnesses  
thereunto set our hands the  
day and year above Written

Elijah Harkness

Martha Harkness

Nathan Harkness Susanna Harkness

Deley Staff Phoebe Allen

Silas Boyce Martha Johnson

Chas Harkness Sarah Buffum

Elijah Harkness Lydia Shearman

George Harkness Susanna Harkness

Carniel Bassett Deborah Crocker

Artemas Bassett Margaret Crocker

Darling Saben Betsey Harkness

Loah Curtis Abigail Southwick

Ezek Buffum Mary Southwick

Joseph Bassett

Stephen Southwick

Elihu Staff

David Barrows

Moses Allen



## Marriage Certificate of Daniel Bassett

Daniel Bassett of Richmond in the County of  
 Cheshire and State of New Hampshire Son of William  
 Bassett of Richmond in the County and State aforesaid  
 and Margery his Wife deceased and Susanna Starkness  
 Daughter of Nathan Starkness of Richmond in the  
 County and State aforesaid and Susanna his Wife  
 having declared their intentions of taking each other in  
 Marriage before several Monthly Meetings of the People  
 called Quakers in the County of Cheshire According to  
 the good Order And Amongst them Their proceedings  
 after due inquiry and deliberate Consideration thereof  
 were allowed by the said Meetings They Appearing  
 Clear of all Others and having consent of Parents (and  
 others concerned) Now these are to certify all whom it  
 may concern that for the full accomplishing of their  
 said intentions this first day of the second month in the  
 Year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and seven  
 They the said Daniel Bassett and Susanna Starkness  
 Appeared at a publick assembly of the aforesaid People  
 and others in their Meeting house in Richmond and  
 He the said Daniel Bassett taking the said  
 Susanna Starkness by the hand did openly declare  
 as followeth Friends I take this my friend Sus-  
 anna Starkness to be my Wife promising her  
 such divine assistance to be unto her a loving  
 and faithful Husband until it shall please the  
 Lord by death to separate us And the said  
 Susanna Starkness did then and there in like  
 manner declare as followeth Friends I take this  
 my friend Daniel Bassett to be my Husband  
 promising her such divine assistance to be unto  
 him a loving and faithful Wife until it shall  
 please the Lord by death to separate us or Words  
 of the like import and the said Daniel Bassett  
 and Susanna Starkness as a further



Confirmation thereof have hereunto set their hands  
 She after the custom of Marriage assuming  
 the Name of her Husband

Daniel Bassett

And we whose Names are Savanna Bassett  
 hereunto subscribed being  
 present with others at the  
 Consummation of their said  
 Marriage as witnesses hereunto set  
 our hands the day and Year above  
 Written

Wm Bassett  
 Enoch Southick  
 Elyah Harkness  
 Preben Randall  
 Nathan Harkness  
 Israel Waben  
 Artemas Bassett  
 John Harkness  
 George Harkness  
 Obino Harkness  
 Eliza Harkness

Mary Southick  
 Lucy Twichel  
 Susanna Harkness  
 Ruth Bassett  
 Molly Randall  
 Sarah Bassett  
 Sarah Buffern  
 Meribah Harkness  
 Martha Harkness  
 Betsy Harkness  
 Lydia Shearman

Extracts from the Minutes of a Quarterly  
 Meeting

The Committee to visit Melham Meeting  
 Report that they think best to build a meeting  
 house there 24 ft square 10 ft posts and house  
 on a lot of land given and deeded by Samuel  
 Arnold to friends for that purpose rich-  
 mond Monthly Meeting is Directed to  
 build the house Collect the Money Sub-  
 scribed for that purpose and Report the rem-  
 ainder of the scheme to this Meeting when  
 accomplished



Smithfield Quarterly Meetings proportion of the  
 yearly Meeting Stock To Each Dollar the Mon-  
 thly Meetings are directed to forward in the same  
 proportion the Quarterly Meeting Stock was  
 forwarded from last Quarter by the Representat-  
 ives & forward the same to the Treasurers of this  
 Meeting and an account thereof to next Quarter.

Extracts from Smithfield Quarterly Meeting  
 Minutes held at Leicester 9th of 11<sup>th</sup> Mo 1809

By Zadock Smith Clerk

### Extracts from the Minutes of a Yearly Meeting

In the Exercise which we have at this time  
 felt on behalf

The Queries with answers thereto from the  
 several Quarterly Meetings were read whereby many  
 deficiencies were opened to the view of the meeting &  
 produced a lively concern in the minds of many present  
 which gave rise to many feeling remarks & pertinent  
 observations particularly upon the neglect of our  
 Meetings and the defects of love & unity as well as  
 the baneful effects of an indulgence in the love of  
 spirituous liquor in some instances. Expressed  
 in the answers accompanied with encouragement  
 to a further faithful discharge of individual duty  
 & the promotion of our testimony in its various  
 branches. At this Meeting several Epistles were  
 received from other Yearly Meetings from some of which  
 we have made the following extracts and recom-  
 mended them to our several Quarterly & Monthly  
 Meetings as containing matters worthy of the solid  
 attention of our Members. We are renewedly sensi-  
 ble that in Order availing to labour for the  
 removal of deficiencies it is necessary to be replen-  
 ished with a sensible feeling of Love to the



Great Author of all our Mercies whereby a  
 Careful Watch is maintained Over our Own steps  
 and a fervant Solitude for the best Interest of  
 others & when in honest Simplicity little intima-  
 tions of duty are attended to There is ground  
 to believe such private labour is often blessed - -

It is sorrowfully obvious that many continue  
 in the neglect of attending Meetings for the  
 solemn purpose of Divine Worship - May the  
 Minds of these be awakened to a just sense  
 of the dangerous situation in which they stand  
 for we believe it to be impossible for any to grow  
 in the root of vital Religion while they  
 continue in the habitual Disregard of this im-  
 portant duty. In the exercise which we have at  
 this time felt on behalf of the beloved rising  
 generation strong desires have passed the  
 Minds of many brethren that the Weighty  
 duties which belong to parents & heads of fam-  
 ilies may be discharged with increasing faith-  
 fulness that the hearts of the Fathers may indeed  
 be turned to the Children & by dwelling near the  
 principle in themselves they may be enabled to shut  
 out their tender and susceptible minds & to lead  
 them along not only by precept but by the powerfull  
 influence of correct Example -

Dear friends as the present is a season of great  
 commotion in the World a fervant desire hath been  
 felt and experienced in this Meeting that the  
 Members of our Society may by an increasing  
 circumspection & care avoid any interference with  
 the political contentions of the times believing  
 that those who become actuated by such Dispositions  
 will be soundly estranged from the unity and  
 simplicity of truth & be led into a confusion of  
 Judgement & feeling which will render the  
 Blessings of Quietness & assurance which



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in that situation impossible to be Obtained.

Smithfield Quarterly Meetings proportion of Six  
Hundred Dollars agreed to be raised this Year is  
Sixty Dollars which that meeting is desired to  
pay to Obadiah Brown Treasurer of this Meeting  
& send an account thereof to the next Yearly Meeting

Extract from the Minutes of Rhode Island  
Yearly Meeting from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo.  
1809 Inclusive Sam<sup>l</sup> C. Bodman Clerk  
to the Meeting this Year

Extracts from a Quarterly Meetings Minutes

The Committee in the case of Moses Allen made  
Report in Writing which being read is acceded to  
and is as follows

To Smithfield quarterly Meeting  
to be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo 1810

We your committee App-  
ointed to hear & determine upon the Appeal of Moses  
Allen from the judgement of Richmond Monthly Meeting  
against him have met & fully heard him and the Com.  
Appointed by the Monthly Meeting to represent said case  
on their behalf and it our judgement that the judgem-  
ent of Richmond Monthly Meeting ought to be reversed  
which we submit to the Quarterly Meeting George  
Comstock Obadiah Wheeler Elipha Arnold Moses Farnham  
& David Smith

And the judgement of Richmond Monthly Meeting  
is reversed Accordingly & the Clerk is directed to furnish  
that Monthly Meeting with a copy of this Minute  
Extracted from the Minutes of Smithfield Quarterly  
Meeting held at Smithfield 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo 8<sup>th</sup> 1810  
Z. Comstock Clerk



A Certificate of Removal for Stephen Southwick  
 From our Monthly Meeting of Friends  
 held at Richmond in the County of Charles &  
 State of New Hampshire 23rd of 8th Mo 1810  
 To the Monthly Meeting of Friends

Beloved Friends  
 Having removed within the limits of your  
 Monthly Meeting and Requested Our Certificate  
 of Removal these lines may carry on his behalf  
 that He is a Member of Our Society - And on  
 enquiring we find that he has settled his  
 outward affairs to satisfaction - We therefore  
 recommend him to your Christian care and  
 oversight - Signed in and on behalf of Our said  
 Meetings By - Elijah Haskins  
 Lucy Southwick

A Certificate of removal for Stephen Southwick  
 From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held  
 at Richmond in the County of Charles and  
 State of New Hampshire 23rd of 8th Mo 1810  
 To the Monthly Meeting of Friends

Stephen Southwick having  
 removed within the limits of your Monthly Meeting  
 and requested Our Certificate of Removal these lines  
 may carry on his behalf that he is a Member of Our  
 Society - And on enquiring we find that he has  
 settled his outward affairs to satisfaction - We  
 therefore recommend him to your Christian care  
 and oversight



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Signed in & on behalf of Our said Meeting  
By Elyak. Harkness } Clerk  
Lucy Furbel }

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends  
held at Smithfield 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1810

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at  
Richmond State of New Hampshire

Beloved Friends

David Batley a Member of this  
Meeting having requested Our Certificate to  
You in Order for Marriage with Hannah  
Southwick On inquiry he appears Clear of Marri-  
age engagements Amongst us and had Consent  
of Parents

Signed On behalf of said Meeting by

Daniel Inman Assistant Clerk

David Batley of Burrillville son of Jesse Ba-  
tley of Burrillville in the County of Providence  
and State of Rhode Island and Nancy his Wife  
and Hannah Southwick daughter of Enos South-  
wick of Richmond in the County of Cheshire and State  
of New Hampshire and Mary his Wife having  
declared their intentions of taking each other in  
marriage before the Monthly Meeting of the Peo-  
ple called Quakers in Richmond in County and  
State aforesaid according to the good Order  
used amongst them; their proceedings after  
due inquiry and deliberate Consideration thereof  
were allowed by the said Meeting; they appear-  
ing.



Clear of all others and having consent of  
parents and others concerned - -

Now these are to certify to all whome it may  
concern, that for the full accomplishing of their  
said intention, this twenty first day of the Ninth  
Month, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand  
eight hundred and ten, they the said David  
Batter and Hannah Southwick Appeared at  
a public assembly of the aforesaid people  
and others, in their Meeting house in Richm-  
ond in the County and State aforesaid, and  
he the said David Batter taking the said  
Hannah Southwick by the hand did openly  
declare as followeth; "Friends I take this  
my friend Hannah Southwick to be my  
Wife promising through divine assistance to  
be unto her a loving and faithful Husband  
until it shall please the Lord by death to  
separate us." And the said Hannah Southwick  
did then and there in like manner de-  
clare as followeth; "Friends I take this my  
Friend David Batter to be my Husband  
promising through divine assistance to be  
unto him a loving and faithful wife  
until it shall please the Lord by death to  
separate us." or words  
of the like import. And the said David  
Batter and Hannah Southwick as a further  
confirmation thereof have hereunto  
set their hands; she after the custom of  
marriage ~~saying~~ <sup>calling</sup> the name, her Husband  
And we whose names are hereunto  
subscribed

David Batter  
Hannah Batter



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being present with others at the solemnization  
of their said marriage as witnesses thereunto  
set out hands the day and year above written

Enoch Southwick  
Jonathan Bailey  
George Harkness  
Elijah Harkness  
Daniel Bassett  
Aaron Harkness  
Darling Saben  
Israel Saben  
Deleg Tapp  
Elisha Harkness  
Joseph Randall  
David Twitchel  
Moses Allen  
John Boll's

Mary Southwick  
Mary Southwick Jr.  
Abigail Southwick  
Sanna Southwick  
Betsey Harkness  
Cynthia Botli  
Martha Harkness  
Swanna Harkness  
Phoebe Allen  
Holley Randall  
Sarah Coss  
Lydia Allen  
Rachel Twitchel

& family

Cyrus Bassett's Certificate of Removal  
To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Richmond  
State of New Hampshire. - -

(Dear Friends,

Cyrus Bassett with his wife Anna  
Bassett having removed to live within the verge  
of your Meeting and requested our Certificate  
there are to certify on their behalf that they are  
Members of Society and their Lives and Conversation  
in a good degree Orderly and diligent attenders  
of Meetings and an enquiry it appears that their  
Outward Affairs are settled to satisfaction  
they have one child by the name of Daniel



We recommend them to your Christian care  
with desires for their growth in the truth--

Signed on Behalf of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends held 4<sup>th</sup> Mo 25-1811-By--

Rowland Bathburn }  
Alice Bathburn } Clerk

Extracted from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island from the 10th to the 13th of 6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1810 inclusive - - -

The Queries with answers thereto from several Quarterly meetings were read which awakened a concern in the minds of many Friends that led to several feeling judicious remark upon the deficiencies manifested in the answers particularly in the neglect of Our Religious Meetings giving way to sleepiness in some instances a defect in Love and Unity and the improper use of spirituous Liquors which we desire may be duly impressed on Our minds and transmitted by the Representatives to the several Quarterly Meetings with a caution that we carefully support Our Christian testimony Against War and not indulge a vain curiosity in attending trainings or any Military exhibitions even as Spectators

It is proposed to raise the sum of 900 Dollars for the present year of which the proportion of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting is 877.  
Samuel Rodman Clerk  
to the Meeting this year



Richmond Monthly Meetings proportion  
of the aforementioned stock is 11 Dollars - -

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held  
at Wobridge

Dear Friends, Isaac Sabers  
having requested our Certificate to your Mo-  
Meeting for the purpose of Marriage with  
Sarah Mawry. We therefore Certify on his  
behalf that he is a Member of our Society and  
on enquiry nothing appears but that he is clear  
of Marriage engagements with Mr. & hath had  
Consent of Parents - - - - -

Given forth from our Monthly Meeting held  
at Richmond 24th Mo 23rd 1810

Signed by Elijah Harkness } Clerk

A Testimony of the Denial of Paul Gilson Jr  
from our Monthly Meeting held at Rich-  
mond the 18th of the 6 Mo 1812 - - - - -

Whereas Paul Gilson Jr hath had a right  
of Membership among us but he having  
loved the ways and pleasures of the world more  
than the self denying path that Leads into  
all truth has deviated from plainness of Speech  
& Habit and has contracted and consummated  
Marriage with One Not of our Society: for which  
we have laboured with him without the des-  
ired effect: We therefore have Disowned him as  
a member Untill he shall return and Make  
satisfaction

Signed in and by Order of sd Meeting

By Elijah Harkness } Clerk



To Richmond Monthly Meeting (Dear friends  
 This May inform that we have Recd a Certif-  
 -icate from Monkton Mo Meeting for Cyril G-  
 uernsey and three Children (viz) Meriam  
 John & Perias which being Mislayed has  
 Not come to the Knowledge of Our Mo Meeting  
 untill of late and they being Members of our  
 Society and on inquiry dont find but what  
 he has settled his outward affairs to satisfaction  
 as such we Recommend them to your Care and  
 Oversight - Given forth at our Monthly Mat-  
 -ing held at Canby the 3rd of 8 Mo. 1810

By Isaac Wilber } Clerk for the day  
 Hannah Hilley } Clerk

A Testimony of the denial of John Guernsey  
 From our Monthly Meeting held at  
 Richmond 4th Mo 10th 1811 Whereas John  
 Guernsey Son of Cyril hath had a right  
 of Membership among us but he Not  
 hearkning to the Voice of Wisdom has fall-  
 -en into many hurtful practices for he  
 has departed from plainness of speech and  
 habit Neglects to Attend Our Meetings &  
 associates with Vicious Company and is  
 in the habit of profane Swearing &  
 Gambling for which he has been labour-  
 ing for his restoration without the desired  
 effect We have therefore disowned Unity  
 with him and put him from under our  
 care as a Member until he shall return  
 and Make Satisfaction - - -

Agreed in and by Order of sd Meeting  
 By Elijah Harkness } Clerk



From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held  
at Richmond 24th 8th Mo 1809 to the Mo

Meeting of Friends at Wexbridge - - -

Beloved Friends Moses All a Member  
of Our Meeting requested a few lines from Me  
to you setting forth his Clearness of Marriage  
engagements amongst us in Order that he  
might proceed in Marriage with Debbie Mc-  
intire a Member of your Meeting. These may testify  
on his behalf that on inquiry we find that he is  
Clear of Marriage engagements in Our parts as  
such we recommend him to your friendly notice  
& signed in and on behalf of Our said Meeting by  
Elijah Harkness { Clerk

Extracted from the Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting

This Meeting recd the extracts from the Yearly  
Meetings Minutes and transcript of an Epistle  
from the Yearly Meeting of London for 1810  
all of which have been read to Satisfaction  
David Smith Thomas Fry & Timothy Earle are  
appointed to transcribe and extract & transcript  
of Epistle and send down to the several Monthly  
Meetings who are directed to attend to the Mat-  
ters therein and forward their proportion of 77.  
Our proportion of Yearly Meeting Stock agreeable  
to the Apportionment of last Quarter and an  
account to this Meeting the Clerk and assistant  
are directed to forward a copy of this Minute  
to the several Monthly Meetings - - -

Extracted from Smithfield Quarterly Meetings  
Minutes held at Bolton 8th of 8th Mo 1811

By Gideon Mowry Assistant  
Clerk



## Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes 1811

Upon looking into the State of our Society exhibited in the answers to the Queries from the respective Quarterly Meetings, our Minds have been affected with the deficiencies apparent therein, and deep concern felt upon the sorrowful Occasion which manifested itself in many lively expressions upon their inconsistency with our holy profession without descending into every particular at this time, hoping that the minds of friends in the Meetings subordinate to this, may be impressed with a necessity of vigilance, and that, as far as practicable, each concerned friend may become and consider himself as an Overseer, and act with the qualification that wisdom will confer over himself, and such of his brethren, as he may discover an abatement of zeal, or want of concern in in the due attendance of our meetings for worship and discipline, or in such as do attend giving way to a drowsy propensity thus hindering the spirit of detraction, of very pernicious effect in religious, as well as civil society, is noticed in most if not all the answers in a way, that we have cause to fear every Monthly Meeting is more or less affected by its influence on some of its members not sufficiently regarding the advice of the apostle to "watch their Tongue" by which salutary advice if duly observed their Minds would be gradually sweetened so that nothing injurious to the character of another would proceed from them. We exhort all ~~particulars~~ members to be guarded against a practice so destructive. It is also with feelings of regret that we have found the answers in many instances manifesting that some of our Members give way to the degrading use of spirituous Liquors; as this evil and weakness may be ranked among the enormities that are only to be found among the degenerate we believe it right to re-



to our salutary discipline and where after a due admonition and reasonable forbearance such as become us lost to the sense of the requirements of truth their own character and the happiness of their families. Necessarily involved as to persevere therein without hopes of being reclaimed, we recommend to Monthly Meetings to remove the reproach of their conduct by disownment. The clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Minute to the several Quarterly Meetings -

Extracted from the Yearly Meetings Minutes held on Rhode Island from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1811 -

Extracted from the Yearly meetings Minutes 1811

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting proposes that their Meeting in future be held on the first fifth day in the seventh month at Nantucket; in the tenth Month at Sandwich; in the twelfth and four<sup>th</sup> Months at New Bedford with which this Meeting unites; the alteration to take place in the tenth Month Next ~~on the same day~~. The subject of the situation of our present School fund coming ~~before~~ before this meeting; it is concluded to refer to the Minutes of 1803 which is as follows... This Meeting feeling a renewed concern that the object of establishing a School for the promotion of a guarded education may still be kept in view, and be put in execution as soon as it can be usefully effected, do recommend to the several Quarterly Meetings to encourage friends to a liberal Subscription. Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are requested to promote Subscriptions as then recommended - The subject of inspecting testimonies of deceased friends claiming our solid attention it is concluded that they have the inspection of the Meeting for sufferings after having the approbation of the Quarterly Meeting previous to their being presented



to the Yearly Meeting. This Meeting concludes to raise \$900 the ensuing Year of which Smithfield Quarterly Meetings proportion is \$77 which they are desired to forward to the Yearly Meetings treasurer. — Extracted from the Yearly Meeting Minutes held on Rhode Island from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1811

Obadiah Davis, Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of friends held in London by adjournments from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo inclusive 1810 — — —

To the Yearly Meeting of friends in New England

Dear Friends Your acceptable epistle of last year hath been received and read in this Meeting in which we observe with satisfaction, the care you have been led to exercise respecting the state of the Society in your parts and we also inform you that our minds have been alike engaged to inspect into the state of our Society and in renewed endeavors to promote his cause who hath again condescended to aid us with his life-giving presence

We notice the belief you express that a state of quietude hath been witnessed by most during a season of apprehended commotion; a disposition which we sincerely desire may be cultivated both by you and us: that while Nations and Communities may be striving with each other we may study to be quiet and evidence to them that we are desirous of following peace with all Men and of being his disciples who came not to destroy mens lives but to save them.



not to kindle the flames of discord; but to promote harmony and good will among men.

We also observe with satisfaction your concern to extend a helping hand towards the removal of those complaints that have appeared in the accounts you have received from your several Quarterly Meetings and desire you may be encouraged to persevere in so good a work: that by moving under the influence of that wisdom which comes from above and which clothes with the Ornament of a meek and Quiet Spirit both you and we may be enabled to labour for the restoration of those whose growth has been obstructed by delusive pursuits; and their minds diverted from that Obedience which they owe to him who hath created them for the purpose of his own glory and in whose favor there is life. --- Your solicitude for the safety and preservation of the beloved youth amongst you affords satisfaction; and we are alike exercised in desire for those among us that the weakening calls which have been extended in this Meeting by the testimonies concerning many dedicated servants who have lately been removed from ~~works~~ the field of labour the closing period of whose lives hath given evidence that the work of righteousness is peace and the effects thereof quietness and assurance forever may be so laid to heart by those of the rising generation as that by walking by the same rule and minding the same thing: there may be and we believe will be a succession not only of those whose feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace but of such also who will be fitted and qualified to support the various branches of our Christian testimony and unto whom this encouraging language may be held forth

"He that overcometh the same shall be



clothed in white raiment and I will not blot  
his name out of the Lamb's book of life, but I  
will confess his name before my father and  
before his Angels.

We salute you and are your  
friends and brethren

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting  
aforesaid by **Jak Wilkinson**  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year

*The* Epistle From London Yearly Meeting for 1811

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in Lon-  
don By Adjournments, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of  
the fifth Month 1811 inclusive,

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of  
Friends in Great Britain Ireland and Elsewhere.

Dear Friends

Renewedly Deliberating on the subject of address-  
ing you with some account of the exercises and enga-  
gements of Mind which have occupied us at this season  
we have again felt encouragement to believe that we  
may thus contribute through the blessing which is per-  
mitted to crown the humble endeavor of the disciple  
to build you up on your most holy faith in Christ Jesus  
our Lord Receive then our Cordial Salutation in Him  
the Living Stone the chief Corner stone elect precious  
and come to him that ye may be built up a spiritual  
house a holy priesthood these are indeed sacred ex-  
pressions not lightly to be adapted; and the state to which  
they point is a high attainment not to be reached by  
human contrivance and skill; but remember it is  
the glory of the gospel dispensation that by it every  
valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill  
shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight  
and the rough places plain; yea even the blind,  
shall be led by a way that they knew not, and dark-  
ness shall be made light before them. These things  
saith the Lord, will I do unto them and not forsake them



One principal engagement of mind which has been  
 manifested in this meeting has been for our youth and  
 as the influence of heavenly love are successively visit-  
 -ing them as they rise from childhood so the care of  
 the living members of the Church is successively attracted  
 to attempt their preservation from the dangers inci-  
 dent to their state and to encourage them to persevere  
 in their attachments to their holy and heart-felt tend-  
 -ing visitation. Thus dear young people though we may  
 seem to repeat former advice our theme like the suc-  
 -cessive touches of of Good which from time to time  
 are melting your hearts is never Obsolete. It is  
 a signal Favour that in various places there are  
 continually fresh proofs of the prevalence of the  
 love of Christ Operating in the mind and producing  
 its genuine and blessed effect of Conformity to his  
 likeness Humility it is true and Self denial must  
 form a part of this likeness but so doth also the real  
 and fruitful love of God and of our Neighbour and  
 if we have pen planted together in the likeness of his  
 death we shall be also in the likeness of his resurre-  
 -ction bend therefore we beseech you early-bend  
 in good earnest and Cheerfully under the forming  
 hand of the Lord "The fear of the Lord is the beginn-  
 -ing of Wisdom" yea the foundation of true knowl-  
 -edge There is danger <sup>in</sup> seeking knowledge inde-  
 -pendantly of this for so saith the apostle knowl-  
 -edge puffeth up" But this true knowledge is life eter-  
 -nal. "This" said our blessed Lord "is life eternal that they  
 might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ  
 Whome thou hast sent" O the favour the honour and  
 the eternally blessed effect of being taught by the  
 Lord! Nor have our good desires been at this time  
 been confined to the youth only We are desirous to  
 write also to you who have passed the Meridian of life  
 You have travelled a long course through the dang-  
 -ers and vicissitudes of time and it will be well  
 for you to reflect and to know how far you have kept  
 yourselves unspotted from the World. Some of you  
 also, have been engaged in a long course of profession  
 and to some of you we trust it may be said you have  
 known him that is from the beginning We beseech  
 you to pause and to ponder the path of your feet.  
 is your Salvation nearer than when you believed  
 is your present state answerable to the love



With which you were visited, and attracted in the Morning of your days; and is your love now equal to the Love of your espousals. Fruits of increasing love to God are manifested in a variety of Ways: and probably not in any one more clearly or more acceptably to Him than by tokens of regard for the plants of his hand the visited Youth of his Church. It is remarkable that when our Lord put the question to his zealous disciple Peter Simon Son of Jonas lowest thou Me: the only consequent injunction was Feed my lambs—feed my sheep. There are various ways too in which this may be effected: by precept by sympathy by assistance in their spiritual difficulties but above all by steadily uniform Circumspect example. And this dear Friends as you know cannot be afforded to them unless you experience fresh Supplies of spiritual strength to persevere yourselves in dedication faithfulness and the fear of the Lord. How profitable of advantage then, is an observance of the comprehensive Command of Christ. I say unto all Watch Thus young and old may be helped to each other for as He that watereth shall be watered also himself the disciple who by the benefit of holy example and sound precept contributes to forward others in the path of righteousness and peace will receive an increase of ability himself to hold on his way and the faithful members of the gathered Church will become each others joy in the Lord.

We have received at this yearly Meeting an acceptable epistle from Ireland and from each of the North-American Yearly Meetings. The latter continue steadily occupied in endeavoring not only to build up our own Society in Christian practice but to diffuse the benefits of their Christian Charity beyond our limits. Two of them namely those of Maryland and Carolina have lately again become advocates with their respective legislatures for their oppressed brethren of the African race and though yet in vain not with discouragement to future intercession and three of them those of New-York Pennsylvania and Maryland are still attentive to the benevolent Object of attempting to civilize their Indian Neighbours.



The sufferings reported this year amount in all to about twelve thousand seven hundred pounds Ecclesiastical demands form the bulk and Military ones a considerable part and a few friends have been imprisoned for refusing to serve in the Militia

Now friends as in our religious refusal to pay tithes and to take our part with others in Military services our Object is to bear testimony to the freedom of gospel-ministry and to the Supremacy of Christ as a Teacher in the heart and also to his reign of peace in the kingdom of this world we desire that in all your conduct among men you may walk worthy of the high profession which you make in which truly Christian endeavor you will continually feel the need of his inward support.

Many are the duties incumbent on the followers of Christ and all require the Support of his presence for their due performance Without me they are his Own Words, ye can do nothing We feel inclined at this time ere we close the present Salutation of our love to remind you of that indispensable duty the acknowledgment of our dependence on his power by duly assembling at the Seasons appointed for Waiting on and Worshipping God. Deficiencies indeed in this respect do not in the general appear to increase and we are aware that we often renew our tender exhortation on this subject Once more dear Friends let the exhortation go forth Consider the Motives of deficiency Such as you as may be conscious of it If as the Apostle has declared the presenting of your bodies be a reasonable service We beseech you to examine into the cause that it is too often intermitted Is it not that in a greater or less degree you may still be conformed to this world But recollect this conformity will still prevent the Christian professor from being transformed by the renewing of the mind and from proving (as who at the solemn approaching close will not rejoice to have proved) What is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God

Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus that great Shepherd



of the Sheep through the blood of the everlasting Covenant make you perfect in every good Work to do his Will working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ to ~~have~~ whom he glory for ever and ever Amen

signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by  
 John Wilkinson  
 Clerk to the Meeting this Year

## The Epistle From London Yearly Meeting for 1812

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting  
 held in London By adjournments from  
 the 20th of the Fifth Month to the 30th of the same  
 inclusive 1812

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings  
 of Friends in Great-Britain Ireland and  
 Elsewhere

Dear Friends,

Being permitted to meet at the  
 present time to investigate the State of our reli-  
 gious Society and participating together in that  
 love which we believe takes its origin in the  
 boundless mercy of God through Christ our holy  
 Redeemer through Him who died for us and  
 who ever liveth to make intercession for us  
 We have found this love to extend to you our  
 Brethren We have considered your Situation  
 whither in your larger or smaller Meetings  
 and as we have again been impressed with  
 the belief that in renewing the Written Salutation  
 of our Love we shall be found in the way of  
 our duty We have desired to be directed to impart  
 to you such information and Counsel as may tend  
 to your increase in the fear of the Lord and in  
 the consolation of his presence



Seeing therefore the infinite value of love that indispensable qualification of a true disciple we are desirous of pressing it on every individual to examine impartially how far he feels it to flourish in his own mind and to influence all his actions thus inducing others to follow him as he is endeavouring to follow Christ. And we believe that nothing will be so favourable to the preservation of this holy disposition as humility of heart a temper in which we constantly see ourselves unworthy of the least of the Lord's Mercies and dependant only on his Compassion for our final Acceptance seeing also that no awakened mind can be without a view to a better and an enduring and that no one knows how soon he may be called to put off mutability let us bear in perpetual recollection that in the state to which we aspire there is nothing but eternal love joy and adoration in the presence of Him through whose love we were first awakened.

In contemplating this copious Subject though we are not apprehensive of more symptoms of deficiency than in former years we feel disposed afresh to encourage friends to be prompt in undertaking and prudent in executing the blessed office of peacemaker. And we believe patient endeavours of faithful Friends will be generally crowned with success in proportion as their own minds are seeking to Jesus for assistance in performing an office on which he has pronounced his blessing and in endeavouring to lead the minds of any contentious persons to the sense of the absolute necessity for all true disciples to live in peace one with another and to forgive one another as even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven them.

Before we quit the Subject of Christian love let us remind you that no limit of name can bound its influence. In this season of almost unprecedented pressure on some of the poorer class of our Countrymen we deem it particularly desirable that our dear friends every where should not be backward in examining into their distressed but liberal in contributing a due proportion of relief. Many are allowed to have temporal



possessions sufficient to do this with comparative ease. Let these therefore remember that they are but stewards and let them seek to be good and faithful stewards and it is probable that Others not equally abounding in the good things of this life may ~~proceed~~ <sup>proceed</sup> in using Moderation in their Own expenditure they may have wherewith to supply the wants of Others and to make the heart of the man sing for joy. Or the blessing of clothing the naked and feeding the hungry who would not desire to be entitled to a share in it.

Moderation in personal and domestick <sup>or</sup> expenses every way becomes the followers of a lowly hearted Saviour. We are therefore engaged to press it upon Our young friends just setting out in life to beware of needless expenses in the furniture of their houses and in their general domestic habits. Even those who think their property may entitle them to abundance or to elegance by indulging in costly habits are setting but an ill example to those of more contracted means and as we are but too apt to copy that which coincides with our natural disposition our want of circumspection may prove an incitement to extravagance in Others and prompt them to use exertion for supporting an appearance which may divert them from the true business of life the daily study to be approved in the sight of God.

And dear youth in general especially you whose period of life may not be so advanced as that of those whom we have just addressed even you who have left or are about to leave the protection of a parent and to enter into the busy scenes of life some of you probably in populous towns far different from the retirement of your paternal abodes. We beseech you to guard against the new temptations



which may now assail you Oppose their first incitements to any liberty inconsistent with your principles and be willing to seek the Society of experienced friends in the places where you may be situated and to receive their admonition with meekness and attention. Never forget that the Season of early youth is a Season of peculiar danger and if you grow up under this sense you will from time to time be led to cry for preservation to Him who has said (and his words are Amen forever) Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out - - -

The usual accounts of sufferings brought in this year chiefly tithes and those called Church rates and for military demands amount to thirteen thousand six hundred and forty five pounds. Five young men have been imprisoned for refusing to serve in the Local Militia. Besides these and other accounts which we have received from our several Quarterly Meetings we have an epistle from Ireland and one from each of the Yearly Meetings on the American continent. The Yearly Meetings of our American brethren seem vigilant in their attention to the Support of our testimonies and to purposes of general benevolence. The due education of our youth still forms a part of the concern of the Yearly Meeting of Pennsylvania which has also together with those of Maryland and New-York continued to care for the native inhabitants of the Wilderness and those of Carolina Virginia and Maryland testify in their Epistles their unremitting concern for the state of the enslaved Africans in their land. Although in our Country as well as in theirs the infamous traffick with Africa in slaves has been abolished by law we desired friends not to forget that Slavery still exists within the British empire and to suffer their Sympathy still to flow toward its Oppressed Victims - - -

Thus dear Friends we trust we may say that both abroad and at home the Lord is influencing his servants to remain on the watch though the



Subjects of our concern may be somewhat various it is still pleasant to reflect that all are aiming at the same Object and all looking to the same Lord for his gracious assistance Having the same faith and being baptized with the same baptism even those plunges into exercise and conflict which wash us from confidence in our own exertions how can it be otherwise than that we should rely as we have just hinted on the same Lord May this unity of travail encourage us all to abide steadfast in our allegiance to him that in due season we may reap the unpadding reward of his holy peace . . . . .

Having touched on some of the subjects which have warmed our hearts in desire that we may be built up in a spiritual house we entreat you to consider that it is by means of individual exertions under the direction of the Omnipotent Masterbuilder that the work is to be effected to his praise Be vigilant therefore we beseech you be constant when cases require it in faithful and tender admonition Neglect in this point gives countenance to defect and increases them whilst the faithful admonisher may hope to partake of the reward of those who turn many to righteousness who saith the prophet shall shine as the stars for ever and ever . . . . .

Now dear friends in conclusion let us observe that Love Christian love is the parent of every virtue it restrains our immoderate gratifications of personal indulgence it expands our hearts to every class of society and to every modification of the human species it makes us prompt to lend a hand of help to such as may stray from the path of safety it leads to universal benevolence and as it is the Origin of every good work so through the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ it will be the reward of a life passed in his service in its native reign the realm of unmixed love with him forever Amen

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

John Wilkinson

Clerk to the Meeting this Year



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# A Testimony of the denial of Solomon Gage

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond  
Monday 17th of 9th Mo 1812

Whereas Solomon Gage hath had a right of Membership amongst us but he through disobedience to the Manifestations of truth the sure guide to all truth hath fallen into vain and hurtful practices He hath much neglected to attend our meetings and departed from plainness of speech and habit hath also been guilty of using profane swearing and wicked Language with the excessiver use of Spirituous Liquors for all which misconduct we have laboured with him for his restoration without the desired effect. We therefore have disowned him as a Member and put him from under our care untill by repentance he shall return and make Satisfaction

Signed in and by Order of the above sd Meeting

By Elijah Harkness } Clerk

## John Younglove's Certificate of Removal

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond in the State of New-Hampshire in New England

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Galloway State of New York

Dear Friends

John Younglove a Member of our Meeting requested our Certificate of Removal to your Meeting these Lines may certify on his behalf that he is <sup>an</sup> Orderly life and conversable and on inquiry we find not but ~~his~~ <sup>he</sup> has settled his outward affairs to Satisfaction. We therefore recommend him to your Christian care

Signed in and on behalf of our said meeting by

Elijah Harkness }  
Sarah Bassett } Clerks



# A Testimony of the Denial of Deleg Taff Jr From our Monthly Meeting of friends held at Richmond the 21st of the 10th Mo 1813

Whereas, Deleg Taff Jr Son of Deleg hath had a right of Membership among us but he not harkning to the Voice of Wisdom in his own heart has fallen into hurtful practices (viz) He has frequented places of Musick and dancing together with the use of profane Language hath departed from plainness in speech and habit and much neglected the attendance of our Meetings for which we have laboured with him in love without the desired effect.

We have therefore disowned unity with him as a member and put him from under our care until he shall return and make satisfaction.

Signed in and by Order of sd Meeting by  
Elijah Harkness Clerk

## The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for 1813

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London By adjournments from the 19th of the Fifth Month to the 29th of the Same inclusive 1813

Dear Friends

We have had cause at this time to acknowledge the condescension of our Heavenly Father who is still pleased to own with his presence these our annual Assemblies Under this influence our hearts have been united and we have been animated to crave the assistance of his holy spirit that we may be enabled to serve Him with faithfulness and to uphold with Christian simplicity our various religious testimonies And we believe that the constraining love of the Gospel calls upon us to salute our dear brethren with the invitation O taste and see that the Lord is good

In the course of the usual proceedings of this Meeting we have received from the several quarterly and other meetings of which it is constituted an account of the state of our religious Society, Whilst we lament



that many amongst us are still too much engrossed with the fading enjoyments of this life and are refusing to follow our holy pattern in the path of <sup>Eden</sup> denial. We wish they may not be deprived of that encouragement to turn into the right way which often results from the faithful admonitions of those who have known the benefits of greater circumspection. Though from a sense of their own weakness some of the rightly concerned among us may be ready to shrink from the performance of this duty we would recommend remind them that by thus winning their Love to their friends they will receive additional strength themselves and that such acts of dedication will contribute to their own advancement in the Christian course - We desire dear friends that such of you as often meet in small companies for the solemn purpose of Worship may not relax in your diligence. Your situation will at times appear discouraging but although you may be seldom assisted by the company travail of your brethren never forget that you are under the continued notice of the Lord: and that his tender regard extends to all those who wait upon him in reverence and humility. Many who have been alike circumstanced can acknowledge that they have known their strength renewed and their confidence in divine support increased by a due attendance of their Meetings for religious Worship. Your situation though trying to yourselves is important if with faithfulness and integrity you perform your Christian duties your example will prevail with others who have been too negligent of the concerns of a future Life and by your consistent conduct the Truth which you profess will be exalted the name of the Lord glorified -

Our Minds have been affected at this time by the recent decease of Many with whom we have been often associated in religious labour and whose memory is precious. We feel the Loss of these yet we can with thankfulness acknowledge we have been comforted in reflecting that the Almighty Power which was their Support and which ~~was~~ has preserved



us since we were first gathered to be a people is unchangeably the same. We sympathize also with those who are in the decline of life in whose hearts such afflictive deprivations may in their solicitude for the welfare of the Church excite many discouraging feelings. To you our elder brethren and sisters we offer the salutations of our cordial love. We desire that you may partake of our comforts in observing the conduct of many who are now in the vigour of health and strength and who in various ways are giving proofs of their attachments to that cause the prosperity of which has been your greatest joy. We doubt not that your endeavours to stand approved in the sight of God have met his gracious acceptance and that your example and labours in the Lord's service have animated many of these your younger brethren to follow you as you have been endeavouring to follow Christ. Let us likewise entreat you dear friends who are of less religious experience but who have entered upon the active scenes of life not to retard your Christian progress by any unwillingness to make an entire surrender of your hearts to the disposal of infinite wisdom. The Lord is a rich rewarder of all his faithful followers and happy will it be for you should you be permitted to see many days to reflect at the close of life that you have been devoted to the promotion of his cause.

The amount of sufferings brought in this year is upwards of fifteen thousand ~~pounds~~ four hundred and seventy pounds a small proportion of this sum has been taken for military purposes but the greater part was incurred in the support of our ancient Christian testimony against tithes and other demands of an ecclesiastical nature.

We have received an Epistle from our friends in Ireland and one from each of the yearly Meetings on the Continent of America except that of Carolina in consequence of large emigrations from other parts of the United



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states five Quarterly Meetings of Friends residing  
on the Western side of the Allegany Mountains have  
been detached from that Yearly Meeting and formed  
into a separate one. Under the influence that Love  
by which we are United as brethren we have addre-  
ssed an epistle to those who are intending to meet on  
that important occasion in the Eighth month next in  
the State of Ohio. From the epistles and other Commu-  
nications from America we find that our friends  
besides being attentive to the concerns of our Society  
are still pursuing their engagements for the Well-  
fare of the African and the Indian race. But the  
War in which that Country and this are now so  
awfully involved has presented great Obstacles to their  
efforts towards civilizing the Indians and is likely  
for a time to suspend in some parts their succe-  
ssful exertions in that important and interesting  
Cause.

When we consider the continuance and  
the extensions of war we cannot but deeply feel  
on account of the desolations and numerous evils  
which are its indispensable inseparable attendants  
and we earnestly entreat all our members so to  
abide within the limitations of Truth as in no deg-  
ree to violate our Christian testimony in this res-  
pect for the sake of gain. Let us keep out of even the  
spirit of contest and strive for the attainment of  
a dependence up him whose kingdom is not of  
this World.

Amongst the numerous benevolent  
undertakings which now interests the of our Coun-  
trymen we contemplate with much Satisfac-  
tion the general Circulation of the Holy Scripture.  
Our sense of that inestimable treasure has been  
frequently acknowledged and we feel ourselv-  
es engaged to call the attention of such of our  
Members as may be employed in this salutary  
Work to the Supreme importance of giving heed  
to that divine Word to which the Scriptures  
bear Testimony. This Word is Christ the  
Bread of Life and the Light of men that



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Light which lighteth every man that cometh  
into the World If we are earnest to obey the tea-  
chings of this unerring guide We shall be  
led to Cry to the Lord that he would preserve  
us from self exaltation from attributing to  
ourselves or Others that honour which is due to  
Him alone We shall be on our true attorn-  
ment of labour in the Church This watchfulness  
unto prayer can alone ensure our growth in  
religious experience and our establishment in  
every good Word and Work

Finally brethren Farewell Be perfect Let this  
attainment be the principal Object in view  
then Will you be of good Comfort and of one mind  
you will live in peace one with another and  
the God of Love and peace will be with you

signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

John Withinson  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year

Extracts from the Minutes of a Meeting for Suffering

This Meeting having for several years made  
general provision for the accommodation of friends  
during their attendance at the Yearly Meeting at  
Newport but finding it attended with inconve-  
niences which have been exercising & uneasy to  
many friends we have now concluded Under  
the present peculiar Circumstances and after  
solidly considering the Subject to make but  
limited provision for the present year to extend to  
those only who may feel a concern to attend the  
meeting & apprehend themselves unable to  
defray their own expenses Friends who have not  
sufficient knowledge of suitable places where they  
may accommodate themselves as well as those  
for whom provision is made during the  
holding the Yearly Meeting



are desired to apply to the Committee of  
Rhode Island Monthly Meeting for such inform-  
ation

Extracted from the Minutes of a Meeting  
for Sufferings held at East Greenwich the  
5th & 6th days of the 5th mo. 1813

Samuel Rodman Clerk

Extracts from the Minutes of a Yearly Meeting

This meeting having obtained information by the  
reading of the minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings  
that a suitable lot for the erection of building to accom-  
-modate a yearly meeting school containing about 43 Acres  
in the vicinity of Providence had been offered for that  
purpose by our Friend Moses Brown to this Yearly  
Meeting and the meeting for sufferings having  
satisfied themselves through the report of a committee  
of their appointment that the lot affords a pleasant  
& healthful situation to erect suitable buildings upon  
for this desirable object which has for many years  
occasionally occupied the serious attention of this  
meeting & having at this time a renewed engag-  
ement for the guarded education of our youth  
and a very general agreement being mani-  
-fested that the time has arrived wherein it may  
be entered upon with a better prospect of accompli-  
-shing the benevolent design than has been hereto-  
-fore presented to our view the present amount  
of the fund subscribed for this purpose with its  
interest is upwards of \$9000 which is considered  
inadequate to the expense which will attend  
the erection of suitable buildings and to defray  
the other expenses of the institution we therefore  
recommend to friends to aid the present fund  
by subscriptions in their freedom and forward to the  
Meeting for Sufferings an account of the sums  
that they may be qualified to act therein we tenderly  
exhort friends to be liberal in their subscriptions  
according to the means afforded them remembering  
that we are only stewards of the goods we possess  
that we hold them by a very uncertain tenor and



176

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into the World If we are earnest to obey the tea-  
chings of this unerring guide we shall be  
led to cry to the Lord that he would preserve  
us from self exaltation from attributing to  
ourselves or others that honour which is due to  
Him alone We shall be on our true attorn-  
ment of labour in the Church This watchfulness  
unto prayer can alone ensure our growth in  
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every good Word and Work

Finally brethren Farewell Be perfect Let this  
attainment be the principal Object in view  
then Will you be of good Comfort and of one mind  
you will live in peace one with another and  
the God of Love and peace will be with you

signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

John Withers  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year

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general provision for the accommodation of friends  
during their attendance at the Yearly Meeting at  
Newport but finding it attended with inconve-  
niences which have been exercising & uneasy to  
many friends we have now concluded under  
the present peculiar circumstances and after  
solidly considering the subject to make but  
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those only who may feel a concern to attend the  
meeting & apprehend themselves unable to  
defray their own expenses Friends who have not  
sufficient knowledge of suitable places where they  
may accommodate themselves as well as those  
for whom provision is made during the  
holding the Yearly Meeting



are desired to apply to the Committee of  
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for Sufferings held at East Greenwich the  
5th & 6th days of the 5th mo 1813

Samuel Rodman Clerk

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reading of the minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings  
that a suitable lot for the erection of building to accom-  
modate a yearly meeting school containing about 43 Acres  
in the vicinity of Providence had been offered for that  
purpose by our Friend Moses Brown to this Yearly  
Meeting and the meeting for Sufferings having  
satisfied themselves through the report of a committee  
of their appointment that the lot affords a pleasant  
& healthful situation to erect suitable buildings upon  
for this desirable object which has for many years  
occasionally occupied the serious attention of this  
meeting & having at this time a renewed engag-  
ement for the guarded education of our youth  
and a very general agreement being man-  
ifested that the time has arrived wherein it may  
be entered upon with a better prospect of accompi-  
shing the benevolent design than has been hereto-  
fore presented to our view the present amount  
of the fund subscribed for this purpose with its  
interest is upwards of \$9000 which is considered  
inadequate to the expense which will attend  
the erection of suitable buildings and to defray  
the other expenses of the institution we therefore  
recommend to friends to aid the present fund  
by subscriptions in their freedom and forward to the  
Meeting for Sufferings an account of the sums  
that they may be qualified to act therein we tenderly  
exhort friends to be liberal in their subscriptions  
according to the means afforded them remembering  
that we are only stewards of the goods we possess  
that we hold them by a very uncertain tenor and



that a righteous & benevolent distribution of a part  
~~of a part of them~~ may produce a blessing upon  
 the remainder. The clerk is directed to forward  
 a copy of this Minute to the several Quarterly Meetings  
 Extracted from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting  
 held on Rhode Island from the 12th to the 16 of  
 6th Mo 1814 inclusive

By Samuel Rodman  
 Clerk this year

Extracts from the Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting  
 the foregoing extracts directed by this meeting  
 to be sent to the several Monthly Meetings with feel-  
 ing solicitude that they may pay particular  
 attention thereto. The several Monthly Meetings  
 are directed to forward to our Treasurer their share  
 of \$40 this Meeting's proportion of Yearly Meet-  
 ings Stock and an account thereof to next Quarter.

The Committee Appointed in regard to Richmond  
 Monthly Meetings rearage make the following  
 report that on investigation of this matter it  
 appears there was no money raised as 2 Meeting  
 Stock for the Year 1810 & that they are deficient  
 in payment for 1811 for the Sum of \$7.26 which  
 is accepted & Richmond Monthly Meeting is  
 directed to forward the rearage as expressed in  
 the Report to our treasurer and an account  
 thereof to next Quarter.

Extracted from the minutes of Smithfield  
 Quarterly Meeting held at Bolton  
 11th of 8th Mo 1814

By Daniel Wheeler Clerk



at  
 Enoch Southwick & family: Certificate of Removal  
 From our Monthly Meeting of Friends at Richmond  
 in the State of New Hampshire held 22nd of 9th Mo 1814  
 To the Monthly meeting of Friends held at Hamb-  
 urgh State of New York. Respected Friends Enoch  
 Southwick being about to remove with his family  
 within the limits of your Meeting and requests  
 our Certificate of Removal for himself & family.  
 These are to certify on their behalf that they are  
 Members of Orderly lives & Steady attenders of our Meeting  
 his Wife name is Mary who is a minister in Unity  
 the names of their Children are Abigail Elisabeth  
 Enoch Huldah & Watson an enquiring nothing has  
 appeared but what they have settled their outward affairs  
 to Satisfaction with desires for their growth in the  
 truth we Recommend them to your Christian  
 care & remain your friends

signed on behalf of our above sd Meeting by

Elijah Harkness } Clerk  
 Lydia Allen }

A Testimony of the denial of Samuel Arnot

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Rich-  
 mond the 23 of the 3rd Mo 1815

Whereas Samuel Arnot  
 hath had a right of Membership in our association  
 but he not duly attending to Wisdom has depar-  
 ted from the principles we profess Neglects the atten-  
 dance of our Meetings and attends others of different  
 Modes for which we have laboured with him with-  
 out the desired effect. Therefore we have disowned  
 Unity with <sup>him</sup> as a Member until he shall return and  
 Make Satisfaction

signed in and by Order of sd Meeting by

Elijah Harkness } Clerk



# Asahael Aldrich Certificate of Removal To Richmond Monthly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends,

Asahael Aldrich having removed from us within the Compass of your Meeting, and requested our Certificate this may Certify that he is a Member of our Meeting. & it appears has settled his affairs to Satisfaction as such we recommend him to your Christian care Signed on behalf of Uxbridge Monthly Meeting held the 28<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Mo 1815  
by Moses Farnum Clerk

## 1 Testimony of the Denial of Moses Sabin

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mo 1815

Whereas Moses Sabin hath had a right of Membership in our Religious Society but he not regarding the good order established among us has contracted and consummated Marriage with one not of our Society for which we have laboured with him without the desired effect wherefore we have disowned unity with him as a Member untill he shall become convinced of his Error and make Satisfaction

Signed on behalf of the above said Meeting by  
Elijah Harkness Clerk

Extracted from the Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting Received Information from Richmond Monthly Meeting that they were about to receive Joseph Daniels a Member if there was no objection in this Monthly Meeting by which he was for some time disowned and none appearing the clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Minute to Richmond Monthly Meeting.

Extracted from the Minutes of Uxbridge Monthly Meeting held at Northbridge 31<sup>st</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo 1815  
by Jonathan S. M. Howe  
assistant clerk



Minute of the Yearly Meeting for New England  
Held on Rhode Island By Adjournments from  
the 11th day of the 6th Month to the 14th of the same  
Inclusive 1815

On a review ~~and~~ of the State of our Religious  
Society as represented by the Answers of the Queries  
now received from our Several Quarterly Meetings  
our minds were impressed with deep solicitude  
that a more careful attention to our several reli-  
gious and moral duties may be maintained and  
in a particular manner that we may all be  
more engaged in cultivating a near acquaint-  
ance with the redeeming love of God Under this  
precious influence we shall be found constant  
in the important duty of attending our Meetings  
for Divine Worship whereby we shall not only bear a  
publick Testimony of our belief in the Superintendence  
of an all-wise Creator but may through divine good-  
ness be often made partakers of that spiritual repres-  
entment which experience teaches us is in mercy  
dispensed to the humble dependent and be thereby  
strengthened in the performance of our various  
duties for as we increase in this love to God love one unto  
another will necessarily follow and we shall be  
preserved in that unity and fellowship which is the  
distinguishing badge of the disciple of Jesus

Our Minds have been renewedly concerned that all  
in profession with us may be increasingly cautious  
of making use of Ardent Spirits the dreadful consequen-  
ces of the frequent use of which appears in the present  
day to excite a very laudable concern in the minds  
of many of the people at large who are looking at  
towards us both for example and assistance to aid  
them in lessening the many evils which have  
flowed from this source Hence it is highly importa-  
nt that we should give no occasion of stumbling



to others in the support of a testimony which we have long believed it our duty to advocate and our several Monthly Meetings are particularly advised to give their watchful attention to this Subject

Although it has been cause of thankfulness to us that during a period of War our peaceable testimony has been so well maintained yet there are many inducements to excite us to more attention and energy on this very important and interesting Subject Our hearts have been made humbly thankful in believing that it <sup>is</sup> a time in which the attention of the people is peculiarly turned towards an investigation of the grounds of War and that conviction has wrought in the minds of very many that it is a custom not reconcilable with <sup>the</sup> doctrine and precepts of the Author of the Christian faith Under these consoling considerations how very urgent is our duty to improve every opportunity of diffusing the knowledge of that most excellent principle which we have ever believed would produce and maintain Peace on earth good will to men

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting

William. Rotch jun. Clerk

the foregoing minute was read in this meeting to good satisfaction the Clerk is directed to forward to the several Monthly Meetings a copy thereof

Extracted from the Minutes of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting held at Bolton 10<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>mo</sup> 1815

The Epistle From the Yearly Meeting held in London by adjournments from the 18<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> Month to the 30<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1814

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of friends in Great Britain Ireland and elsewhere Dear Friends, Our hearts have



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have been afresh warmed with the love of the Gospel  
of Christ Jesus our Lord and we feel encouraged therein  
to testify our unabated solicitude for the preservation and  
prosperity of the Members of our religious Society We  
desire that the goodness and mercy of Him from  
whome we derive every blessing may excite you  
to fear to love and to serve him with fervency of soul  
and to pray that under the influence of the Spirit of the  
Son of his love you may in all things be enabled to  
glorify his holy name

Deeply impressed with gratitude to Almighty God  
that the Sword is again stayed in this Quarter of the  
globe and that the Spirit of Contention which has so  
long prevailed has been succeeded by marks of Chris-  
tian forbearance and Charity We desire to express our  
thankfulness for the prospect of peace The judgements  
of the Lord have indeed been in the earth and many  
have learned righteousness May the number of these  
increase may the peaceable Spirit of the gospel the  
surest pledge of permanent tranquility spread and  
prevail We of this island have cause to be doubly  
thankful we have been preserved from witnessing  
the effusion of blood and the ravages of War which  
have spread over the greatest part of Europe and  
We are now permitted in Common <sup>with other</sup> Nations to rejoice  
thus far in their cessation

In what way therefore beloved friends shall we evince  
our sense of these unmerited favours It is well known  
that we regard it as a Christian testimony to refrain from  
uniting in those public demonstrations of joy which  
often prevail on such occasions We are convinced that  
frequently they lead to practices inconsistent with that  
meek and quiet Spirit which should clothe the disciples  
of Jesus and are an inlet to excesses which estrange  
the mind from God It is not in this way that We  
should manifest our grateful feelings but by endeavour-  
ing through the influence of redeeming love and pow-  
er to live more and more in the Spirit of the gospel  
and thus to become examples of genuine Christian  
conduct

Publick Worship is a duty which we owe to our  
great Creator And even in contemplating



the recent events to which we have already alluded we feel engaged to invite you to consider them as an additional incentive to diligence in this respect great indeed are the benefits of a regular attendance of our religious meetings and of waiting upon God in spirit and in truth when thus assembled The mind <sup>being</sup> then abstracted from temporal concerns and fixed on the true object of Worship aspirations for help will arise the Union of a travail of Spirit will be felt and we shall be more and more sensible of the benefit of so employing a due proportion of our time If we become thus sensible we shall be earnest that all the branches of our families may partake with us and we shall not rest satisfied that either they or ourselves should once only in the week allot a few hours to this duty Let us <sup>then</sup> dear Friends entreat you who <sup>may</sup> have been deficient to lay these things to heart and deeply to consider whether your practice is calculated to advance you in the Christian course or render you good examples to those around you If the mind be duly turned to the Lord in meetings for Worship the benefits which result will not be confined to the hours that may be thus occupied We shall even in the concerns of this life be preserved in a degree of the same calm and watchful state of mind and in frequent retirement be led to examine our own hearts Thus furnished with strength from above we may with increasing yet humble confidence pursue our good resolutions and proceed with calmness and safety in the way cast up for the redeemed of the Lord to walk in. Our desire for the possessions of this world will be limited within the bounds of Christian Moderation we shall prefer durable riches and righteousness - - -

The <sup>afflictions</sup> sufferings of our Friends in this Nation



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and Ireland amount to upwards of sixteen thousand two hundred pounds of this sum about eleven hundred pounds arose from Military demands and the remainder from the support of our testimony against tithes and other ecclesiastical claims Ten of our young men have been imprisoned for a short time on account of the local Militia

The epistolary intercourse with our friends in Ireland and in America has been maintained in this as in former years and has been the means of awakening an interest in the Welfare of our distant brethren Whilst we lament that America should yet remain under the afflicting scourge from which Europe is in great measure freed We anticipate with hope the event which shall extend to that Country also the blessing of peace

We desirously tenderly to remind those who have joined us upon the ground of Conviction of the truth of our religious principles that a spiritual profession calls for evident fruits of holiness May these therefore regard their connections with us rather as an opening to fresh duties than as the period of cessation and rest

We have been made sensible during this Yearly Meeting of the continued goodness of Him who has eminently blessed our Society Under a grateful sense of his Mercies we renewedly invite you to a full surrender to his gracious disposal and in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ we again salute you and cordially bid you farewell

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

John Wilkinson

Clerk to the Meeting this Year



The Epistle from London Yearly Meetg  
for 1815

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held  
in London by Adjournments from the 24th  
of the 5th Month to the 2nd of the Sixth Month in-  
clusive 1815

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings in  
Great Britain Ireland and Elsewhere

Dear Friends,

In offering you the Salutation  
of our love we believe it right to acknowledge our  
thankfulness to the Author of all good that we have  
been permitted to meet together. We have had  
again to rejoice in a sense of the goodness of  
Him who by his presence owned us in times past  
and though sensible of the loss of ~~those~~ labour and  
counsel of some who have recently been removed  
from the probationers of time we have felt the con-  
-soling assurance that the divine power is both  
ancient and new. It is from this holy source  
that every enjoyment both spiritual and temporal  
flows it is to the Lord Almighty that we are  
indebted for the blessings of existence for the  
means of redemption and for that lively hope  
of immortality which comes by Jesus Christ to  
this service then dear Friends in Obedience to the  
Manifestation of his power let us offer our tal-  
-ents to the glory of his great and excellent Name  
let us devote our strength and the residue of our  
days.

The state of our religious Society as trans-  
-mitted from the several bodies which consti-  
-tute this Yearly meeting has been again  
brought under our view Accounts of  
the sufferings of our Members chiefly



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for tithes and other ecclesiastical demands and for claims of a Military Nature to the amount of Fifteen thousand seven hundred and twenty seven pounds have have been reported and we are informed that ten of our young men have been imprisoned since last year for refusing to serve in the local Militia.

We are encouraged in believing that our our ancient Christian testimony to the inward teaching of the spirit of Christ and to a free gospel Ministry Not only continues to be precious to many but is gaining ground amongst us. The sufferings to which we are exposed are through the lenity of our government far less severe than were those of our predecessors. To some however we believe that these operate at times as a trial of their faith and Love to the Truth.

We are disposed to remind such that patience and meekness on their part will tend both to exalt the testimony in the view of others and to promote their own advancement in the Christian course.

The Epistle from our friends in Ireland and those from the several Yearly Meetings on the American Continent have again convinced us that we are brethren bound together by the endearing ties of Christian fellowship desiring as fellow-disciples to follow the same Lord and we feel that there is in the gospel of Christ a Union that is not dissolved by distance nor affected by the jarring contentions of Men - We



The Epistle ~~for~~

We are engaged tenderly to caution friends against an eager pursuit after the things of this life. We believe that many who begin the World with Moderation views meeting at first with success in trade go on extending their Commercial concerns until they become involved therein to a degree prohibited by the precepts of Christ and incompatible with their Own safety. Thus situated some may be tempted to adapt a line of conduct dishonourable in itself and injurious to Others. On this subject We think it right to ~~repeat~~ repeat some advice given by the Yearly Meeting in its printed Epistle of 1771:—"We warn all against a most pernicious practice too much prevailing amongst the trading part of Mankind which hath ~~so~~ often issued in the utter ruin of those concerned therein namely that of raising and circulating a fictitious kind of paper credit with endorsements and acceptances to give it an appearance of value without an intrinsic reality a practice highly unbecoming that uprightness which Ought to appear in every member of our religious Society and of which therefore we think it our incumbent duty to declare our disapprobation (and disunity therewith) as absolutely inconsistent with that Truth we make profession of" Epistle 1771

That contentment which characterizes the pious Christian is a treasure which we covet for all our Members and we especially desire that those who are setting out in life may so circumscribe their expectations and limit their domestic establishments as not to bring upon



themselves expences which could be supported  
 by an imprudent extension of their trade Care  
 in this respect will enable them to allot more  
 of their time to the service of their fellow-men  
 and to the promotion of the Lord's Cause We  
 believe that were parents to instill into the Minds  
 of their Children principles of Moderation and  
 economy suited to their future expectations  
 it would under the Divine blessing not  
 only conduce to their preservation but promote  
 their safety and comfort in life We are  
 far from wishing to discourage honest indus-  
 try and further still from countenancing  
 in any degree a spirit of avarice We are not  
 insensible that the situation of many of our Mem-  
 bers is such as renders necessary to them a dilige-  
 nt attention to the concerns of this life Chris-  
 tian simplicity and self denial-denial we  
 would however heartily recommend these  
 attained the Object which in this respect we  
 have at heart for all of our dear friends will be  
 accomplished Amongst other deficiencies reported  
 to us at this time we have been pained in observ-  
 ing that many appear to be still satisfied with  
 attending Meetings for Divine Worship but once  
 in the Week We lament in believing that where  
 indifference to this primary religious duty prevails  
 in any the spirit of the World hath obtained  
 the ascendancy in their Minds for there We have  
 often at former times expressed our concern and  
 now again entreat them to consider the privations



of good to which they subject themselves and those  
 Over whom their examples prevail in Omitte-  
 -ing this most reasonable service The habit of  
 Constant attendance on these occasions forms  
 an important branch of the religious education  
 of Our youth We are therefore desiring of impress-  
 -ing on the minds of those to whom they are  
 intrusted and who themselves may be diligent  
 to be ware how they deprive their Children of such  
 Opportunities on the Week-day even for the sake  
 of their attendance at School

It has afforded us much satisfaction to believe  
 that the Christian practice of daily reading in fam-  
 -ilies a portion of Holy Scripture with a subsequent  
 pause for retirement and reflection is increasing  
 amongst us. We conceive that it is both the duty  
 and the interest of those who believe in the doct-  
 -rine of the Gospel and who possess the invaluable  
 treasure of the Sacred records frequently to recur  
 to them for instruction and consolation We are  
 desirous that this wholesome domestic regulation  
 may be adopted every where Heads of Families  
 who have themselves experienced the benefit of  
 religious instruction will do well to consid-  
 -er whether in this respect they have not a duty  
 to ~~consider~~ discharge to their Servants and Others  
 of their household Parents looking sincerely  
 for help to Him of Whom these Scriptures testify  
 may not unfrequently on such occasions



feel themselves enabled and engaged to Open to the Minds of ~~these~~ interesting Charge the great truths of Christian duty and Christian redemption.

In considering this subject our younger friends have been brought to our remembrance with warm and tender solicitude. We hope that many of you dear youth are no strangers to this practice and to some we trust it has already been blessed. Hesitate not we beseech this close to allot a portion of each day to read and meditate upon the sacred volume in private. Steadily direct your Minds to Him who alone can open and apply the Scriptures to our spiritual benefit. In these seasons of retirement seek for ability to enter into a close examination of the state of your own hearts and as you may be enabled secretly pray to the Almighty for preservation from the temptations with which you are encompassed. Your advancement in a life of humility dedication and dependence upon Divine aid is a subject of our most tender concern. That you might adorn our holy profession by walking watchfully before the Lord and upholding our various testimonies was the care of some of our dear friends of whose decease we have been at ~~this~~ this time informed. They were concerned in early life to evince their love to the truth they served the Lord in uprightness and fear in their generation and in their closing moments were permitted to feel an humble trust.



trust that through the Mediation of our Redeemer they should become heirs of a kingdom that shall never have an end Let their examples encourage you to offer all your natural powers and every intellectual attainment to the Service of the same Lord and patiently to persevere in a course of unremitted Obedience to the Divine Will

Now dear friends of every age and of every class we bid you affectionately farewell in the Lord Jesus Let us ever bear in Mind Whether we attempt under the influence of Christian love to maintain our testimonies to the Spiritual and peaceable kingdom of the Lamb Whether we attempt to promote the present and future Welfare of our fellow-members and fellow-men let us ever remember that if we obey the Divine Commandments we shall do all to the glory of God we shall always acknowledge that it is of his mercy if we ever become partakers of the unspcakable privilege of the true disciple of Him who died for all that they that live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto him who died for them and rose again

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by  
 William Dillworth Crewdson  
 Clerk to the Meeting this Year



To Richmond Monthly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends Amos Wheeler a member of our Meeting requests a few lines from us to certify his Cleanness to join in Marriage with Lydia Randall a Member of your Meeting by enquiry we find nothing to hinder his proceeding therein agreeable to good Order having Obtained Consent of his parents

Signed on behalf of Bolton Monthly Meeting held the 26th of 6th Mo 1816 by Thomas Fry Clerk

Amos Wheeler of Berlin in the County of Worcester and State of Massachusetts Son of Levi Wheeler of Berlin and County and State aforesaid and Mary his Wife deceased and Lydia Randall daughter of Reuben Randall of Richmond in the County of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire and Molly his Wife having declared their said intentions of taking each other in Marriage before the Monthly Meetings of the people called Quakers in the County of Cheshire according to the good Order used among them their proceedings after due enquiry and deliberate consideration thereof were allowed by the said Meeting they appearing Clear of all others and having consent of parents and others concerned. Now there are to Certify all whome it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their said intentions this twenty third day of the eighth Mo in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen they the said Amos Wheeler and Lydia Randall Appeared at a publick assembly of the aforesaid people and other in their Meeting house in Richmond and he the said Amos Wheeler taking the said Lydia Randall by the hand did Openly declare as followeth Friends I take this My friend Lydia Randall to be my Wife promising through Divine assistance to be unto her a loving

Loving



Loving and faithful Husband untill it shall please  
the Lord by death to separate us And the said  
Lydia Randall did then and there in like manner  
declare. Followeth Friends I take this my Friend  
Amos Wheeler to be my husband promising  
through divine assistance to be unto him a loving  
and faithful wife untill it shall please the Lord  
by death to separate us. Or words of the like import

And the said Amos Wheeler and Lydia Randall  
as a further confirmations thereof have hereunto  
set their hands she after the Custom of Marriage  
adopting the Name of her Husband

And we whose names are hereunto subscribed Amos Wheeler  
being present with others at the solemnization Lydia R. Wheeler  
of the said Marriage as witnesses thereunto  
set our hands the day and year above written

Levi Wheeler	Molley Randall
Benben Randall	Sarah Randall
David Randall	Hannah Randall
Peregreen Wheeler 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rhoda Randall
Joseph Randall	Mary Randall
Rufus Randall	Martha Harkness
William Randall	Lydia Allen
Levi Randall	Ruth Barrett
Peregreen Wheeler	Phoebe Allen
David Twitchel	Sarah Allen
Nath <sup>l</sup> Adrich	Rachel Twitchel
	Lucy Jaff



The Epistle From London Yearly Meeting for 1810  
 The Epistle From the Yearly Meeting, Held in  
 London By Adjournments, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of  
 the fifth Month to the 31<sup>st</sup> of the same inclusive 1810

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings  
 of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland and Else-  
 where

Dear Friends,

We esteem it a favour which  
 calls for our grateful acknowledgements, that  
 we have been afresh made sensible on this  
 occasion of our heavenly Father's love and have  
 felt that it reaches to all our dear friends where-  
 ver they are situated. Our Minds have been humbled  
 in gratitude to him who by his Divine power  
 raised us up to be a people who have from one  
 generation to another blessed our religious Soc-  
 iety and who is still to be felt at times in great  
 mercy to preside amongst us. We have earnest-  
 ly desired that these impressions may be an addi-  
 tional motive for us to consider how far we are  
 seeking to be established on Jesus Christ the  
 "Rock of ages" the same yesterday <sup>and</sup> today and  
 for ever." To this foundation of our predecessors  
 We desire to direct your most serious attention.  
 Let it dear friends be our daily concern to seek  
 for his divine guidance and support Great will  
 be the advantages which we shall thence derive.  
 The bitterness of our conflicts will be sweetened  
 by the remembrance that He unto whom we are  
 seeking and who is "not a High Priest that cannot  
 be touched with the feeling of our infirmities" is able  
 to save them to the uttermost that come unto God  
 by him. A sense of Victory over our evil affe-  
 ctions through his power and mediation  
 will be a sufficient consolation. It will if the



the Watch be maintained Strengthen us to  
 proceed in the way of allotted duty and though  
 new trials and temptations may await us and  
 we may continue sensible of the dangers with  
 which we are surrounded the blessing of true  
 Christian experience the result of patient per-  
 severance in well-doing will be ours Thus from what  
 we have known and what we have felt we shall  
 be constrained to acknowledge that there is no joy  
 like unto the joy of Gods Salvation. We observe  
 with pleasure the increasing desires manifested by friends  
 to obtain a guarded and useful education for their  
 Children The reports on the Schools under the Notice  
 of this Meeting indicate the religious Care and good  
 Order prevailing in them and have yielded us great  
 Satisfaction The improvement of the Understanding  
 and the Communication of that knowledge by which  
 it may be more extensively prepared for the Service  
 of Him to Whom we must all render Our Account<sup>s</sup>  
 are duties not to be neglected We desire however to  
 impress upon all whether parents or those to whom  
 they intrust their tender offspring the Supreme  
 importance of inculcating the first of duties  
 the love and fear of God A watchful parent  
 will at no time be more alive to the welfare  
 of his Children than when they are passing from  
 the age to which we have just adverted to the  
 succeeding stage of life. The Situation in which  
 they are ~~they~~ placed and the companions with whom  
 they associate may have a decided influence on  
 their future Character. We would therefore  
 encourage both parents and masters not to relax  
 at this critical period either in care or counsel  
 or in proper restraint tempered with kindness  
 Here we would advert to the importance of good  
 example and to the great blessing which will  
 attend the labours of those whom we are now  
 addressing, as they are seek to become preach-  
 -ers of righteousness in life and conduct



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to those around them. How inviting how instructive it is to behold such as by the purity of their lives by the meekness of their spirits and by the benevolence of their characters are adorning their profession. This is a duty which is enjoined by the highest authority; and we earnestly press upon all to consider whether their Moderation their self-denial their habits of life are such as become the Christian religion.

Our solicitude has at this time been awakened for our young men employed as travellers in business. The exposure of these to the temptations to which they are often unavoidably subject has tended to draw aside some from that simplicity that purity of heart and thought that strict morality which our Christian principles require. We would submit to the serious consideration of their parents and employers the extreme danger of sending forth into such service any young persons whose religious principles are not fixed nor their habits formed and we would encourage friends in different places where those in this line of employment may travel to continue and to extend that kind and hospitable notice which has been already manifested. The situation of some of our young friends in other occupations may deprive them of the advantage of virtuous and instructive associates these also we hope will not be overlooked by those to whom they are known.

We lament that reproach should have been brought on our Society by the failure of any of our members in discharging their just debts. We consider it to be the duty of all but especially of every person under pecuniary difficulties to inspect narrowly into the state of their affairs and this we conceive might often prevent such an issue. Let all friends be careful to live within their income retrenching if necessary their expenses.



and we desire that it may be their uniform endeavour to conduct their business in such a way as may subject them to the least risk or danger. For those who possessing integrity yet from the pressure of the times are with honest and upright intentions struggling under many difficulties we feel near sympathy. Let these be encouraged they will not fail. We trust if they seek it to obtain the kind advice of their friends. Let it be their earnest concern under these trials to hold fast their confidence in our all-wise and gracious Helper as likewise their love to their brethren. This love we believe is peculiarly endangered whenever the mind is disturbed by the perplexing cares arising from embarrassed circumstances.

The Amount of sufferings reported this year occasioned by claimers for tithes and other demands of an ecclesiastical nature with a few for a Military ~~purpose~~ purpose is upwards of fifteen thousand pounds. Our brethren of all the Yearly Meetings on the American Continent have again given proofs of their love by written communications. Their interesting work of Indian Civilization still occupies their attention. In some of the tribes the improvements which notwithstanding the late commotions have been gradually going forward are truly encouraging. In others those who are concerned in this good work have probably already renewed their exertions where the ravages of war had desolated many of the settlements. The persevering labours of friends in Virginia and some other parts to procure the freedom of many Negroes illegally as well as unjustly held in slavery have in several instances been crowned with success and it is very gratifying to observe that the rights of this injured people are still dear to our American brethren. We hope that in this country friends will continue to feel a deep interest in the welfare of the African race and not



dismiss the subject from their thoughts until such wise and prudent Measures may be adopted as shall promote and finally secure universal emancipation - So excellent is Christian love in its nature and effect that it is deeply painful when we hear of any differences existing among us How can those who are at variance one with another unite acceptably in the performance of ~~div~~ worship to Him who is emphatically styled Love It is an awful consideration that that disposition which separates man from man does at the time estrange him and will if it continues eventually separate him from his Creator We therefore earnestly recommend to friends to watch the first appearance of discord patiently and kindly to endeavour to assist those who may be thus affected or who are in danger of becoming hardened towards their brethren Christian Charity and tenderness for the infirmities of our friends are bonds in religious society These do not preclude that kind and tender admonition that exercise of <sup>our</sup> discipline in the spirit of the Gospel which we have from time to time been engaged to recommend Although we are not a numerous Society yet if we are preserved in love and dwell under the government of Christ we may hope to fulfill the designs of divine providence in having gathered and established us as a separate religious body: We may show forth the excellence of the Christian religion by the spirituality of our worship and by the purity of our lives Dear Friends we desire in conclusion reverently to acknowledge that this Yearly Meeting has been a time of the renewal of our strength and of the increase of our confidence in the goodness of Israel's Shepherd We cordially bid you farewell May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ

signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

William Dillworth Crewdson  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year



# Marriage Certificate of Darling Sabers

Darling Sabers of Winchester in the County of Ches-  
hire and State of New Hampshire Son of Israel Sabers  
of Winchester and County and State aforesaid and Bulch  
his Wife and Hannah Shearman of Royakston in the  
County of Worcester and State of Massachusetts Daugh-  
ter of Seth Shearman and Mary his Wife deceased

Having declared their said intentions of taking each  
Other in Marriage before the Monthly Meeting of the  
people called Quakers in the County of Cheshire Acor-  
ding to the good Order Used Among them Their proce-  
eedings after due enquiry and deliberate Consideration  
thereof were allowed by the said Meeting they appear-  
ing Clear of all Others and <sup>having</sup> Consent of Surviving  
parents and Others Concerned. Now these are the Cer-  
tificates all whom it May Concern that for the full Accomplish-  
ing of their said intentions this twenty fifth day  
of the twelfth Month in the Year of Our Lord One  
thousand eight hundred and Seventeen. They the said  
Darling Sabers and Hannah Shearman appeared at a  
publick assembly of the aforesaid people and Others  
in their Meeting house in Richmond and he the  
said Darling Sabers taking the said Hannah Shear-  
man by the hand did Openly declare as followeth  
Friends I take this My friend Hannah Shearman  
to be My wife promising through Divine Assistance  
to be unto her a loving and faithful Husband Until  
it shall please the Lord by Death to separate us  
And the said Hannah Shearman did then and there  
in like Manner declare as followeth  
Friends I take this My Friend Darling Sabers to be  
My Husband promising through Divine Assistance  
to be unto him a loving and faithful Wife until  
it shall please the Lord by death to separate us  
or words of the like import - - And the said Darling  
Sabers and Hannah Shearman as a further Confirmation  
thereof hereunto set their hands the after the Custom  
of Marriage adopting the Name of her Husband  
Darling Sabers  
Hannah Sabers



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And we whose names are hereunto subscribed  
being present with others at the Solemnization  
of their said Marriage as witnesses thereunto  
set our hands the day and Year above Written

David Randall	Lydia Allen
Elisha Harkness	Lucey Twichel
Israel Saker	Susanna Harkness
Nathan Harkness	Anne Bassett
Israel Saker Jr	
Cyrus Bassett	
Benedict Saker	
Daniel Bassett	
Moses Allen Jr	
George Harkness	

### Certificate of Removal for Joseph Wheeler

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Richmond  
New Hampshire; Joseph Wheeler having moved to Charter-  
field within the limits of your Meeting requests our  
Certificate these May Certify on his behalf that he is  
a Member of this Meeting and has settled his Out-  
ward affair to Satisfaction as far as appears and is clear  
of Marriage engagements among us, or such we  
recommend him to your care and Oversight -

Signed on behalf of Bolton Monthly Meeting,  
held 10 Me 30 1816

By Thomas Fry Clerk



# Marriage Certificate of Elisha Harkness

Elisha Harkness of Richmond son of Nathan Harkness of Richmond in the County of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire and Swanna his wife And Lucy Twitchel Daughter of Amos Twitchel of Richmond in the County of Cheshire & State of New Hampshire and Lucy his Wife deceased - Having declared their said intentions of taking each other in Marriage before the Monthly Meeting of the people Called Quakers in Richmond and County and State aforesaid; According to the good Order Used Among them. Their proceedings after due inquiry and deliberate Consideration thereof were allowed by the said Meeting they Appearing Clear of all Others and <sup>having</sup> consent of parents - Now these are to Certify to all whome it may Concern that for the full Accomplishing of their said intentions This 24<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and eighteen - They the said Elisha Harkness and Lucy Twitchel Appeared at a publick Assembly of the aforesaid people and Others in their Meeting house in Richmond County and State aforesaid and he the said Elisha Harkness taking the said Lucy Twitchel by the hand did Openly Declare as followeth - Friends I take this My friend Lucy Twitchel to be My Wife promising Through Divine assistance to be unto her a Loving and faithful Husband Until it shall please the Lord by death to separate us. And the said Lucy Twitchel did then and ther in like Manner declare as followeth Friends I take this My Friend Elisha



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Harkness to be my husband promising through  
Divine Assistance to be unto him a loving and  
faithful Wife Untill it shall please the Lord  
by death to separate us. & words of the like import  
And the said Elisha Harkness and Lucy Twitchel  
as a further Confirmation thereof have hereunto  
set their hands the after the Custom of Mar-  
riage adopting the Name of her Husband

And we whose names are hereunto  
being present with others at the Solemn  
vow of their said Marriage as Witnesses thereunto  
Set our hands the day & year above written

Nathan Harkness	Susanna Harkness
Abner Twitchel	Meribah Harkness
Oliver Harkness	Betsy Harkness
Elijah Harkness	Sarah Barsett
George Harkness	Susanna Barsett
Moses Allen	Martha Harkness
David Randall	Joanna Twitchel
Moses Allen jr.	Molley Randall
Artemas Barsett	Mike Allen
	Sarah Twitchel

### Marriage Certificate of Sylvester Wickes -

Sylvester Wickes of Cranston Son of Robert Wickes  
of Warwick in the County of Kent & State of Rhode Island  
and Margaret his Wife both Deceased and Lydia Allen  
Daughter of Moses Allen of Richmond in the County  
of Cheshire & State of New Hampshire & Comfort his Wife  
Deceased having declared their intentions of taking each  
other in Marriage before the Monthly Meeting of the Peo-  
ple Called Quakers in Richmond according to the good  
Order Used Among them; their proceedings after due  
enquiry and deliberate consideration thereof were allowed



by said Meeting & they appearing clear of all others  
and <sup>having</sup> Consent of parents and others concerned

Now there are to Certify all whome it may concern  
that for the full accomplishment of their said intentions  
this Twentyfourth day of the Ninth month in the year  
of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Nine-  
teen they the said Sylvester Wicker and Lydia Allen  
appeared at a publick Meeting of the aforesaid people  
and in their Meeting house in Richmond and he the  
said Sylvester Wicker taking the said Lydia Allen  
by the hand did openly declare as follows Friends  
I take this My friend Lydia Allen to be Wife promis-  
ing through divine assistance to be unto her a loving  
and faithful husband untill it shall please the Lord by  
Death to separate us - and the said Lydia Allen  
did there and there in like manner declare as follows Friends  
I take this My friend Sylvester Wicker to be My husband  
promising through divine assistance to be unto him a  
loving and faithful wife untill it shall please the  
Lord by Death to separate us; Or words of the like  
import and the said Sylvester Wicker & Lydia Allen as a  
further Confirmation thereof have hereunto set their hands  
the after the Custom of Marriage Adopting the Name of her  
husband - - - - - Sylvester Wicker

and we whose Names are hereunto subscribed  
being present with others at the solemnization  
of their said Marriage or witnesses thereunto

Set our hands the day and year above written

Moses Allen	Stephen Wheeler	Susanna Harkness
Jerahmeel Allen	Elijah Harkness	
Moses Allen Jr	Phelus Men	Martha Harkness
Israel Saben	Comfort Boyce	Margaret Cass Jr
Deleg. Taft	Marg. Allen	Ruth Allen
Benjamin Crocker	Hannah Bowen	
Martin Cass	Abigail Emerson	
Zephaniah Bowen	Margaret Cass	
Reuben Bowen		



Sylvester Wicker Certificate for the purpose of Marriage

To Richmond Monthly Meeting of friends in  
the State of New Hampshire

O Dear Friends Our friend Sylvester

Wicker requested of this Meeting a certificate in order to proceed in Marriage with Lydia Allen a Member of your Meeting. These are to certify on his behalf that he is a Member of Our Meeting in unity with us and on inquiry nothing appears to obstruct his proceeding therein

Signed on behalf of Greenwich Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Cranston 30th of 8th Mo. 1819

William Reynolds Clerk

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for  
1817

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London By Adjournments from the 21st of the fifth Month to the 30th of the same inclusive; 1817

To the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings of Friends in Great Britain Ireland and Elsewhere

O Dear Friends

The love of our Heavenly Father has prevailed in this our annual assembly. It has united us in the fellowship of the Gospel and has extended to our dear absent brethren Under this influence our Confidence has been renewed that the foundation upon which the righteous in all ages have built their faith upon and their hope is for ever immutable. Notwithstanding our own infirmities and the discouragements which surround us We have felt the Convincing persuasion that the Lord is still mindful of us He who hath blessed us and our forefathers with many tokens of his Divine regard



is yet waiting to show himself gracious and by the Spirit of his Son is calling us to purity of heart and to holiness in all manner of Conversation May we then Consider the sacred duties which devolve upon us as Christians the awful responsibility we are under as to a right use of all those gifts and talents with which we have been intrusted and the necessity of becoming a more Spiritually minded people In turning our attention to the State of the Society as it has been now laid before us the proper employment of the first day of the week the day more particularly set apart for publick Worship is a subject that has claimed our serious attention It is no small privilege to be living in a Country where much regard is paid to this duty and it highly becomes us to be careful that our example in this respect be consistent with the profession we make to the World We desire that heads of families and our younger friends also may closely examine whether they are sufficiently solicitous to improve that portion of this day which is not allotted to the great duty of Meeting with their friends for the purpose of Divine Worship

To those who are awakened to a due sense of the eternal interest of the Soul - and oh! that this were the case <sup>with</sup> all - We believe that these intervals have often proved times of much religious benefit. Many have derived great increase of strength both at these and other times from retiring to wait upon the Lord from reading the Holy Scriptures with minds turned to their Divine Author in desire that he would them to their Comfort and edification and from perusing the pious lives and experiences of those who have gone before them. But we avoid prescribing any precise line of Conduct believing that if the attention be sincerely turned unto



unto the Heavenly Shepherd his preserving help  
and guidance will not be withheld.

Those of the class whome we have just been ad-  
dressing may sometimes feel that their faith is low  
when about to attend their Meetings in the Course of  
the week it may be under great outward difficulties

These sacrifices of time and Opportunities of with-  
drawing from Worldly cares having been blest to  
many they have proved in seasons of deep trial and  
discouragement times of refreshing from the pr-  
-esence of the Lord. The waiting dependant mind  
has thus been enabled to put on strength to perse-  
-vere in the Christian Course; and under the pressure  
of Many troubles & perplexities to experience an  
increase of faith in the merciful and Omnipotent  
Care of our great Creator. Be encouraged then dear frien-  
-ds not to neglect your meetings however small but to  
believe that by diligent attendance of them and a right  
engagement of Mind therein you will be strengthened  
to fill up your Stations as faithful & devoted Christians

In a well Ordered family Short Opportunities of religious  
retirement frequently occur, in which the Mind may be  
turned in secret aspiration to the author of all our blessings  
and which have often proved times of more than tran-  
-sient benefit. It is our present Concern that no excepti-  
-on to this practice may be found among us; Whether it take  
place on <sup>the</sup> reading of a portion of the Sacred Volume or when  
we are assembled to partake of the provisions with which we  
are supplied for the sustenance of the body On these latter  
occasions may the hearts of our young friends also be  
turned in gratitude to God who <sup>thus</sup> liberally provides for them  
May the experience of us all be such that we can adopt  
the words of the Psalmist "Evening and Morning and at

noon I will pray" In our last year Epistle  
We



We had to remark the failure of some of Our Members in paying their just debts. We have been again deeply pained on finding that some disgraceful cases of this kind have since occurred. Whilst we lament the condition of such as have thus wounded their own peace and brought condemnation on themselves we also feel very tenderly both for the near relatives of these and for their Creditors who have suffered through them. In adverting to these cases it is Our solicitude that the misconduct of those to whom we allude may be a caution to others. At all times but more particularly in the present depressed state of trade and Commerce it will be very useful for friends frequently to inspect into the state of their own property to keep their concerns within proper bounds and so to confine their wants within the limits of Christian Contentment that should any unforeseen reverse be experienced they may look back to with feelings of Conscious integrity. And we would especially recommend to friends of discrimination and sound judgement in kindness & love to watch over their brethren for good. Great advantages would result from early repeated and private advice to young tradesmen who from temporary success and inexperience may be in danger of exceeding their Capital and of imprudently extending their business.

Our Sympathy is much excited for those who after fair prospects have from a sudden depreciation of property been subject to many difficulties. We wish kindly to encourage such of these as have it still within their power to a timely contraction of their domestic expenses. And we desire that their trials may be lightened by beholding in their offspring a disposition to industry and economy and a willingness that their expectations should



not exceed those limits which become a Christian Character this we believe would ultimately tend to their greatest good Before we quit this subject we would remind our friends of the former advice of this Meeting that where any have injured Others in their property the greatest frugality should be observed by themselves and their families and although they may have a legal discharge from their creditors both equity and our Christian profession demand that none <sup>where</sup> they have it in their power should rest satisfied until a just restitution be made to those who have suffered by them — The amount of sufferings reported this year for tithes and other ecclesiastical Claims and a few demands of a Military nature is upwards of Fourteen thousand four hundred pounds We have received Epistles from all except one of the Yearly Meetings on the American Covenant From these we observe with pleasure that besides a watchful care to support the testimonies of Our Own Society Our brethren beyond the Atlantick are engaged in various acts of benevolence for the welfare of their fellow-men

Dear young friends our hearts are warmed with love to you We desire that it may be your frequent concern to seek for an establishment on the only sure foundation and to wait in humble watchfulness for the teachings of the heavenly Instructor If conflicts of mind should attend you and prove painful and humiliating in their nature this is no cause for dismay Those who steadily pursue the path of a true disciple will through the goodness of the Lord at times be permitted indubitably to feel that they are the Objects of his paternal regard Thus they will have cause to acknowledge the great benefit of patient religious exercise. They will from their



their own experience know an increase of true faith in the power and perceptible Support of the Holy Spirit. Ascribing this to the free gift of God in Christ Jesus our Lord they will become firmly persuaded that the tendering power of Redeeming Love though undervalued by too many is above all things precious. We are comforted in the belief that the feet of many of our beloved young friends have been turned into this path. And it is our earnest desire that neither the fear of Man the offence of the Cross an aversion to the simplicity of the Truth nor the activity of their own wills may interrupt their progress but that they may through the unfoldings of divine Counsel come to know an establishment in that faith which giveth the Victory. And dear friends you who love the Truth and who are in the Vigor of life feeling as you must the many blessings of which you have been partakers and the privilege it is to be employed in the smallest degree in the service of the Lord let it be your concern to offer your hearts to his disposal and under his sacred guidance to become devoted to the support of his Cause.

May our dear elder brethren & Sisters though often depressed on various accounts be by continued Watchfulness unto prayer endued with Capacity to trust in God. May they receive that Divine Support which will enable them acceptably to endure the remaining trials of time and being preserved in liveliness and Meekness of Spirit be prepared to enter into rest everlasting. Farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

William Dillworth Crewdson  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year



# Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes

From Our Yearly Meeting for New England held in Rhode Island from the 15<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1817

to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings hereunto belonging

Dear Friends

In the answers to the Queries received from our several Quarterly Meetings we have noted divers deficiencies to which still exist among us; and have felt deep solicitude for their removal

One of these deficiencies is a prevailing neglect in the attendance of our religious Meetings particularly those in the middle of the week. Those who have been the cause of this Complaint have occasioned much exercise of Mind to many Brethren and believing it to be a matter of Much importance to you and your tender offsprings We are thus induced in much love to address you on the subject and desire you to examine yourselves that the Lord may be pleased in his great mercy and Condescending goodness to shew you where your standing is and what you are building upon; and enable you to come forward with more dedication and faithfulness in this important duty. We are also desirous that all Friends in the attendance of Meetings endeavour strictly to keep to the hour that we do not when met remain about the house engaged in Conversation on worldly subjects which so unfits the Mind for Divine worship but quietly take their seats under a solemn impression of the important service for which they are met; and retire from our religious assemblies in the same manner And dear friends let us not confine these seasons of retirement



retirement and waiting upon the Lord to Meeting for publick worship but that we be frequently engaged therein in our families and when our hands are employed in our lawful concerns that we may feel our strength renewed in him. that our conversation may be seasoned with grace —

We have also observed ~~to~~ in some of the Answers ~~to~~ the want of Love and unity that ancient Mark of discipleship — We fervently desire those who may feel a lack of this to watch unto prayer that the Father of Mercies May enable them to remove every thing that obstructs the free Circulation thereof; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen — how can he love God whom he hath not seen —

We have also been renewedly impressed at this time with the belief that Children should be devoted from their early years to a guarded and religious education. that as their Minds are then susceptible of very lasting impressions it becomes a concern of much Magnitude that right principles be early instilled and the bias of their inclinations directed to whatever is good and Virtuous; believing that a Measure of the Spirit of truth adequate to their tender years; is implanted in the Minds of Children; which if improved and advanced in will procure them peace to their own minds while here and a Crown of blessedness hereafter that in order for them to be rightly instructed it is necessary that parents and tutors be acquainted with that sanctifying power which brings into subjection the will and passions of the <sup>creature</sup> ~~creature~~ that in this they labour with unremitting diligence to suppress the very buddings of evil and cultivate every appearance of Good — and how careful should the guardians of youth be that they may be preserved from such company as would be hurtful.



to them beginning in very early life, and continuing in unremitting care until they arrive at mature age and hereby they would be much preserved from that unsuitable connection in Marriage which has sometimes taken place where this care has been wanting.

We also feel a renewed desire to recommend to our brethren that the use of spirituous liquors be wholly confined as prescribed by our discipline to Medical purposes & that even then it be avoided where suitable substitutes can be procured; that there may not be the least cause for contributing to this baneful evil, which so sorrowfully prevails in our Land, and that we may so live under the government of the Prince of peace, that our conduct in every respect may evince that we are engaged to support a faithful testimony against the baring armies —

Signed on behalf of said Meeting

Wm. Proctor Jr Clerk

### A Testimony of the Denial of Silas Boyce

From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond the 20th of the 3th Mo 1818

Whereas Silas Boyce hath had a right of Membership in Our religious Society but not paying due attention to the pointings of Wisdom hath imprudently fallen into the use of Ardent spirits to excess which has led him into Conduct & Conversation inconsistent with Our religious testimony for which he has been laboured with Without the desired effect

We have therefore disowned unity with <sup>him</sup> as a Member and put him from under our care until he reforms and makes satisfaction —

Signed in & by Order of sd Meeting by Elijah Harkness Clerk



A Testimony of <sup>the</sup> Denial of Stephen Baker  
 From Our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Pri-  
 amond 10th Mo 22<sup>nd</sup> 1818

Whereas Stephen Baker hat had a right of Member-  
 ship among us, but not taking heed to the Voice of  
 Wisdom in his own heart, has fallen short in several  
 respects of living a life consistent with the principles  
 of truth which we make profession of, he has for a  
 long time indulged himself in idle and unsavory  
 Conversation has much neglected the Attendance  
 of Our religious Meetings and has indulged himself  
 in that reproachful unchastity which caused the Necess-  
 ity of his Speedy Marriage with One Not of Our Soc-  
 iety for all which we have laboured with him for  
 his restoration without the desired effect Satisfaction.  
 We have therefor disowned unity with him as a  
 Member & put him from under our care until  
 he shall return & Make Satisfaction

Signed in and by Order of said Meeting, by

Elijah Harkness Clerk

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting for  
 1818

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in

London by Adjournments from the 20th of the 5th mo  
 to the 30th of the same inclusive 1818

To the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings of Friends  
 in Great Britain Ireland and Elsewhere

Dear Friends

In this Our annual assembly



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assembly it has again pleased Our heavenly Father to Over-Shadow us with his love. We have been enabled to transact the important affairs which have come before us in much harmony and Condescension and have been Comforted and permitted to rejoice in a renewed sense of Divine goodness. Under the expansive influence of those feelings we offer you Our Cordial salutation and express our earnest solicitude that we may indeed be a spiritual house built up in Our Lord Jesus Christ our Mediator and Intercessor - our hope of eternal glory.

We have received a Epistle from Our friends in Ireland and One from each of the Yearly Meetings in America except that of North Carolina. Our brethren in the State of Ohio although <sup>themselves</sup> removed from the scene of Slavery have after the example of those in Pennsylvania thought it right to address a Memorial to their general government on behalf of the African race who in Various parts of the United States are kidnapped and involved in the Miseries of lawless violence. The Epistle from New York Conveys the acceptable intelligence of an act of their Legislature which declares that Slavery shall cease in that State in the Year 1827. X

The amount of Sufferings of Our Members as reported to this Meeting in support of Our testimony against tithes and other ecclesiastical Claims and including sometimes all demands for Military purposes is upwards of Sixty thousand two hundred pounds.

This Meeting has been large and in examining into the state our Society we have been afresh desirous that our various Christian testimonies may be Maintained in purity and Consistency. One of those those of by which we are distinguished is our peculiar view of the subject of public worship. Great are the benefits which result from a right performance of this indispensable service. The tendency of our practice is to direct the Mind unto God and if it be pursued with sincerity and earnestness our hope will be ultimately



Ultimately fixed on Him the Unfailing Source of  
 help. We shall then be led from an undue depende-  
 -nce on outward Ministry and Come to experience  
 that state in which we can "worship God in Spir-  
 it and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no Confide-  
 -nce in the flesh" How Circumspect how reverent and how  
 watchful Ought we then to be in Our religious Meetings  
 But we fear that too many do not Maintain a watch-  
 dependant State of Mind in these Assemblies that they  
 do not enough seek for strength to abstract their Atten-  
 -tion from wandering thoughts and earthly Cares Hence  
 it arises that they do not so fully partake of the evidence  
 of Divine Superintending regard- of those consolations  
 which the Lord in mercy grants to such as hunger and  
 thirst after righteousness This unwatchfulness we apprehend  
 to be a principal Cause that so many are found to neglect  
 Our first day afternoon Meetings And we entreat those who  
 are thus deficient to Consider whether they are not preferring  
 ease and indulgence in the pleasures of life to the Obligat-  
 -ions of religious duty and the possion of spiritual riches

We believe that all who are faithful in the Christian  
 practice to which we have just alluded Will on reflection  
 discover that their Care is not to be Confined Only to them-  
 selves We therefore exhort friends whither in town or in  
 the Country whither engaged in trade or in agriculture  
 to be watchful Over their Children and dependents and in  
 love to use their influence to prevent them from associa-  
 -ting with improper Company on the day set apart for  
 public worship Where a Consistency of Conduct in this  
 respect is Observed it is instructive to others and its effects  
 are we doubt not beneficially felt on reversing the Necessary  
 Care of life The offering of a word of Counsel on this and  
 on all Occasions where it may appear needed in tenderness



tenderness to the Object of it and in the flowings of pure love is worthy of the attention of all Classes of our Members

And now dear friends who fill the important station of parents permit us to express the warm interest which we have felt on your account and on that of your offspring. It has often been the concern of this Meeting to recommend (and again feeling its importance we desire to enforce the advice) that your interesting Charge may from very early life be brought up "in the Nurture and admonition of the Lord". Let it be your earnest and tender care to subject their wills and thus prepare them to bear the Cross of Christ. Cultivate in their Minds as far as is in your power the fear and love of God and a strict regard to truth and integrity. Neglect no endeavors to preserve them in innocence and let them be early habituated to simplicity of dress and Manner and to restraints from indulgences inconsistent with our Christian profession. As their infant minds expand may it be your care frequently to direct their attention to the gentle intimations of the Spirit of Christ which are often to be distinctly perceived in Childhood. One great instrument in forming the Mind to piety and virtue is a well-grounded knowledge of the holy Scriptures—a knowledge of the wonderful dealings of Almighty God with his Chosen people in ancient times of those predictions which point out the coming of the Messiah and of their accomplishment in that most glorious display of Divine love the sending of his beloved Son a sacrifice for our sins and a light to enlighten the world—But never forget that it should be your care to set that example of an humble Christian which so beautifully enforces the pure precepts of the gospel your own Minds must be treasured with grace and your labour will only be effectual as they are carried on and blessed by the power of the Spirit of Christ. If in the discharge of this duty discouragement should arise let not these become a cause of dismay even these may teach the important lesson highly necessary



necessary to be learned that it is only as fresh supplies of holy aid are granted that we can safely labour in this work. The evidence which will at times in Mercy be afforded that Divine Goodness views such efforts with acceptance and the cheering trust that the Continued Care of a tender parent may if not at the time yet at a future day be rewarded are powerful incitements to persevere to persevere in the way of well-doing.

And dear young friends earnest have been our desires for your advancement in the way of life and Salvation that you may all not only be professors with us but by Obedience to the Spirit of Christ become real possessors of the Truth as it is in Jesus. We are persuaded that in the eyes of many amongst you the Truth here indeed appears lovely. Why then is not a full surrender to its power and to its Conclusions? The Lord loveth an early sacrificer His Numberless blessings call for your gratitude and your allegiance and mournful indeed will be the reflection should your days be lengthened to advanced age that you have slighted the Mercies of a gracious Creator that you have preferred the love of the world and its fading pleasures and that there can be no peaceful retrospect on devotedness to his Cause.

To you of this class who have taken some steps in the right way we would tenderly offer a few remarks. The youthful mind in its love for the Cause of Religion is readily led into action. There is a loud call for watchfulness a diligent desire to promote the Lord's work in the world and to serve their fellow-men. They have imperceptibly led from a close and frequent examination of the state of their own hearts. In mixing in public companies and in witnessing the success of the efforts that are used to promote the common good our own minds may be gratified but our quick perception of spiritual instruction may be weakened. For be it from this Meeting to discourage its Members from sharing



in those excellent labours in which we can conscientiously unite our religious principles with the momentous diffusion of the Sacred Volume and in the moral and religious instructions of the poor of this and of other Countries we feel a very lively interest. We rejoice in the progress of these good work but our earnest concern for all is that each may seek to know and to abide in his proper station that they whose field of usefulness is principally within the limits of civil society may be faithful to their call and diligent in their Master's service. When your labours are more extended be especially careful that your exertions for the good of others are adorned and enforced by humility and by that consistency with the principles which can only be maintained by watchfulness and prayer that it may be manifest to all that the love of Christ operating in the heart leads you to seek not the praise of men but the glory of God. The awful subject of the punishment of Death has at this time deeply impressed our minds. We believe that where the precepts and spirit of our great Lord and Saviour have a complete ascendancy they will lead to the abolition of this practice. The situation of those who have forfeited their liberty by the commission of crime has also claimed our consideration. We regard such as objects of great compassion and desire that they may receive the kind assistance of friends who may have it in their power to help them but this should be complied with due prudence and discretion and with that respect to the laws of our Country and to those and to those who administer them which we have ever believed it our duty to enforce.



As a Choice of Representatives in parliament  
is expected soon to take place we wish to continue  
all our Members against entering into political par-  
ties. This Meeting has formerly manifested its care  
on the subject and we desire the Conduct of such  
friends as have any share to take herein may be  
marked by a Christian demeanour and that they  
may show themselves to be truly redeemed from  
the spirit of Contention and tumult.

Finally let us rejoice collectively and indivi-  
dually farewell. May the grace of the Lord Jesus  
Christ and the love of God and the communion of  
the Holy Ghost be with you all. Adieu

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting by

William Dillworth Clerk

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

A Testimony of the Death of Clark Gibson  
From our Monthly Meetings held at Bath-  
-stons on the 20th 6th Mo. 1849

Whereas Clark Gibson son of Paul Gibson  
both had a right of Membership in our reli-  
gious Society who not withstanding was unable  
to our profession in several respects he has  
and by Neglected the attendance of our  
Religious Meetings has not kept to plainness



being invited as he approached by a number  
 of persons on disquise about his house conduct  
 more like a man professing a principle of war  
 and bloodshed than the principles we profess  
 being located with he appeared to justify himself  
 in his conduct and seeing no prospect of refo-  
 rmation we have found it necessary to disown  
 him as a Member until he shall become con-  
 scious of his error and be able to make satisfaction

Signed in and by the direction of the Above said  
 Meeting by Elijah Hathorn, Clerk

From the  
 Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England  
 18th and 19th October

From the 14th to the 17th of the Sixth  
 month 1818 - to the Quarterly and Monthly Meet-  
 ings, New-England  
 Dear Friends,

The deficiencies unfolded to our view is that the  
 views of the Quakers have been deeply engraving  
 to the Minds of many present and have called  
 forth the expression of a lively concern for their con-  
 vales. We are aware that next to the influence of the  
 spirit of Truth itself immediately operating on the  
 Minds of those who have hitherto neglected its  
 reproaches and invitations and thus become the Objects  
 of these Complaints the labours of Concerned and



faithful Friends in their respective Meetings  
 as they become qualified for this by the influence of the  
 same Spirit is the course from which we are to expect  
 the most extensive usefulness yet we have felt some-  
 thing to retire from this assembly without attempting  
 under some measure we are humbly trust of the in-  
 fluence of Divine love to address our absent brethren  
 on some of the interesting Subjects in regard to the  
 state of Society which have thus occupied our attention  
 one of the most prominent causes of complaint and  
 one which has excited a very lively concern has so  
 frequently been the object of general and individual  
 labour that we would gladly refrain from again ad-  
 verting to it; yet while the cause remains we cannot  
 in justice to our feelings silently pass it by We address  
 to the neglect of our Meetings for the solemn act of divine  
 worship.— Can the love of God hold a place in that Mind  
 which refuses him the reasonable service of devoting  
 to a public acknowledgement of our dependence upon  
 him a small portion of that time which he has  
 granted us for purposes the most deeply interesting  
 having relation not only to the present life but to  
 that which is to come?— Can the spirit of watchfulness  
 and prayer permeate that Mind which feels no concern  
 under a sense of its own weakness to unite with the  
 spirits of others in humbly waiting upon him  
 for the renewal of strength for the guidance of his  
 spirit for that sufficiency for all the exigencies of time  
 which is from him alone and as the heart becomes  
 rightly qualified therefor to join in the ascription of  
 praise to him for all his manifold favours to his creature  
 man— We are desirous that considerations of this kind  
 may deeply deeply impress the Minds of all who  
 have given rise to these complaints that



they may be induced closely to examine whether  
 the want of love to God the first great duty of man  
 be not not indeed the secret cause of this neglect how-  
 ever plausible may have been the reasonings by which  
 they have justified it to themselves. It is almost too obvious  
 to require the remark that the want of love and unity  
 among brethren will be found to result from the  
 same cause. If we walk in the light as he who  
 has called us is in the light we have fellowship  
 one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his  
 Son cleanseth us from all unrighteousness. The Manifestations  
 of this light may the attention of all be directed to  
 a certain standard. Learning not to our understand-  
 ings to the evening and uncertain light of human rea-  
 son may we bring not only our actions but our Motives  
 to the balance of the sanctuary solicitous alone to refer  
 them to principle. Here we shall let go that attachment  
 to the world its wisdom its spirit and maxims  
 which is at enmity with God and enter upon that  
 life of self renunciation to which all the blessings  
 of the gospel apply. Here all our testimonies will be  
 supported not here as they are enjoined by Discipline  
 but from an internal conviction of their consistency  
 with the Truth. Love unfeigned will abound - the  
 spirit of war or a disposition to parade its fruits  
 will find no place. The Motive to deviate from Chris-  
 tian simplicity will be done away - the importance  
 of education the responsibility of the parental charge  
 will be viewed in its just light - our conversation  
 will be guarded - The Scriptures of Truth will be  
 read with delight - The wants of the poor will  
 be relieved - the non performance of promise will



case to be a subject of complaint— We shall be qualified to labour feelingly fervently and patiently with those whom we find straying wide from the path of rectitude and enabled to place judgement when it appears necessary in the authority of God there in fire (as an advancement is known in this path) will be witnessed a happy release from the bondage of the world and an admission to the glorious liberty which is to be enjoyed in the freedom of the gospel which we desire that all may rightly labour to attain.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid

William Dotch Jun. Clerk

Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting for New-England

Held on Rhode Island in the 6th Month 1812

It appearing by accounts from several of our Meeting that there are some of our Members who by a late Law of the United States are authorized (as persons of Necessitous Circumstances) to receive pensions from the Government for military service performed by them in the revolutionary war before they made profession with us. The cases of such wherever they may be have in a feeling manner claimed our serious and weighty attention and it is in our united sense and judgement that it will not be consistent with that faithful testimony for the South against war which all the Members of our religious Society are required to bear for any such to avail themselves of those pensions.

It is therefore advised and earnestly recommended to all Quarterly and Monthly Meetings Where



any cases of this kind may occur cheerfully to extend  
their brotherly care and attention to all such friends  
and in a spirit of sympathy and tenderness endeavor to  
strengthen and impress their minds with a suitable sense  
of the necessity of a cheerful and willing sacrifice of the prop-  
erty they hold to them as well for their own peace as the  
support of our Christian testimony against the unrighteous  
and cruel practice of War.

At the same time Friends are recommended to bear  
in mind how universally established practice is repulsive  
to a society of Christians to the comfortable support of the  
mission and where the Extraordinary Circumstances of any of  
those afflicted so may require assistance it is advised that a  
liberal hand of kindness be extended to them offering them  
all that relief and comfort which their dearest conditions  
may need.

By direction of the Meeting of Friends

William Rotch Jun. Clerk

A Testimony of the denial of Benediction

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at  
Quincy on 10th M<sup>o</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1819

Whereas Benediction hath had a right of  
Membership amongst us but by not attending  
to the pure principles which we make profession  
of hath contracted and communicated Marriages with one  
not of our Society for which we have laboured  
with him for his restoration without the desired  
effect Therefore we have disavowed unity with him



as a Member until he shall return and make satisfaction.

Signed in and by direction of Richmond Monthly Meeting, by Elijah Harkness, Clerk.

A Testimony of the denial of Joseph Wheeler from our Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond 3<sup>rd</sup> of 12<sup>th</sup> Mo 1819

Whereas Joseph Wheeler hath had a right of Membership amongst us but he has departed from the good order and among us in several respects he has much neglected to attend our religious Meetings and has married a wife not of our Society and also he has been guilty in excessive drinking all which he has been labouring with for his restoration without the desired effect we have therefore Disowned unity with him as a Member until he shall return and make Satisfaction

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by  
Elijah Harkness Clerk

New Bedford 12<sup>th</sup> Mo 2 1819

It is concluded that the Yearly Meeting, Providence School at Providence shall be opened to receive Children the first day of the next year 6<sup>th</sup> of the Week.

As the funds already for this institution have been nearly all applied in building and furnishing the House the price for Board, tuition, Books & Stationery, Washing and Mending is at present fixed at \$100 per annum; and it is expected that for each Scholar \$25 be paid in advance at the beginning of each quarter. Should this estimate prove higher than to meet the necessary expenses the price will be proportionably lessened.



No child can be admitted for a less term than a Quarter nor in any other than a plain dress

Until a Boarding house may be established in the neighbourhood of the School Friends that accompany their Children may be accommodated with board and lodging at a moderate expense with the superintendants who are Matthew Purington and Wife.

It is concluded that no Child under eight years of age except Orphans or such as are under the care of Monthly Meetings or in some special cases at the discretion of the acting Committee shall be admitted - No boys are to remain or be received at School after they attain the age of fourteen years without the liberty of said Committee

All letters written to the Children whilst at school if sent by mail must have the postage paid or it will be charged to them

Signed by order of the School Committee

Samuel Rodman, Clerk

At a Meeting of the Yearly Meeting Boarding School Committee held at Providence the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo 1819 by adjournment Present 33 Members

It has appeared necessary from the experience derived since the Opening of the School that more Circumspection than has in some instances been manifested should be exercised in cases of sending Children conformable to the recommendation in the printed Circular of 12<sup>th</sup> Mo last and to carry the Object of the Yearly meeting more completely into effect it is recommended that each Monthly Meeting appoint a few judicious friends to whom application may be made



made by parents or guardians of friends children desirous of being placed at the School and that the friends so appointed consider it their duty not only to enjoin that the children come in a plain dress and the use of the plain Scripture language but that they are of good habits and that they give a few lines to that effect for the information of the Superintendents and instructors of the School

The Clerk is desired to send a copy of these minutes to the several Monthly Meetings

Signed by order of said Com<sup>tee</sup>

Sam<sup>l</sup> Rodman Clerk

At our Yearly Meeting held on Wharfedale for New-England - 11th Mo 18 - The Committee appointed at our last sitting on the state of School Funds present the following report: viz. we have examined the subscription paper in the hands of the Treasurer of the funds and find that \$2692 will from the most correct information we can obtain be paid over And for further aid of the institution we think it will be necessary to raise \$2000 and that the subscription be entered into for the purpose of raising that sum at this time but should there be a deficiency we recommend that it be sent down to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings for Friends to subscribe in free don

Benjamin Mott

John Osborne Enock Breed

Moses Stacey Jonas Gardner

John Brown Josiah Dow

Newport 16th of 6th Mo 1819

Which having been considered and the proposed plan contained united with a Committee was appointed to call on friends to contribute in their free don to the object in view and report at a future sitting



stated - The Committee appointed (as by previous Minutes) at the next sitting reported that they had obtained subscriptions in aid of the School fund to the amount of \$925.50 which falling short of the sum proposed to be raised and it appearing the state of the Treasury of the institution is such as to afford no adequate means of defraying expenses which will be necessarily incurred in making such improvements about the House and lot as are requisite for the better accommodation and convenience of the Yearly Meeting School and it being at the same time thought very desirable that a fund should be commenced which in the progress of the institution may extend its usefulness to the Children of friends in more moderate circumstances than can now avail themselves of it the Clerk is directed to transmit Copies of these Minutes to our several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings in the expectation from the concern here manifested that Friends will contribute according to their ability in promoting of these objects - Such subscriptions as may be obtained to be forwarded to Moses Brown Treasurer of the Yearly Meetings School Fund

Extracted from from the Minutes of the Meeting  
 for said held by adjournment from the 13th to the 16  
 of the 6th mo 1819

Abraham Shearman jun.

A certificate of amount of Babine. May 1819. Clerk

to. Babine. Monthly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends,

Babine May 1819 and Shearman jun  
 this with having removed to Babine in the



in the compass of your testimony requested our  
Certificate we hereby certify that they are members of our  
religious society and as many do not find but they  
have little share of it with us to satisfaction we  
recommend them to your affectionate care and are  
your friends

Signed on behalf of Rhoadesland Monthly  
Meeting held at Portsmouth the 25th of the 2nd Mo 1820  
David Williams } Clerk  
Butler Rodman }

A testimony of the denial of Roswell Randall  
from our Monthly Meeting of friends held  
at Richmond 4th mo 20th 1820

Whereas Roswell Randall hath had a right of  
membership in our Society but he not living  
agreeable to the principles of Truth which we  
profess has neglected the attendance of our Meeting  
also is in the practice of attending places of  
merriment & dancing singing idle songs &c.  
for which he has been laboured with without  
the desired satisfaction we therefore have disown-  
ed him as a member until by repentance  
& amendment of his ways he shall return to  
make satisfaction.

Signed on behalf of M. Meeting  
By Daniel Bassett Assistant Clerk

A testimony of the denial of Rufus Randall  
from our Monthly Meeting of friends held at  
Richmond 9th mo 21st 1820

Whereas Rufus Randall hath had a right of mem-  
bership amongst us but by letting down the watch & giving  
way to the evil propensities of his own mind has fallen  
into a line of conduct very inconsistent with our Christian  
testimony he has much neglected the attendance of our  
Religious Meetings also in the habit of attending places  
of public resort unnecessarily parading to catch of aspersions  
of poets gratifying in mirth & singing romantic songs  
in contrariety to our principles for which he has  
been laboured with without the desired effect.



wherefore we have disowned unity with him as a member until he shall return & make Satisfaction

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting

By Daniel Baggett { Assistant  
Clerk

A testimony of the denial of Silas Whitaker from our Monthly Meeting of friends held at Richmond 11th mo 23rd 1820

Whereas Silas Whitaker hath had a right of membership in our Society but not attending to the dictates of Wisdom hath varied from our rules in several respects hath neglected the attendance of our meetings, accepted a pension tendered by Government contrary to the advice of Friends, also too free in the use of ardent Spirits, for which he hath been laboured with without the desired effect. We have therefore disowned unity with him as a member until he discover his errors & make Satisfaction.

Signed in & by order of the above sd Meeting

By Elisha Harkness { Clerk

At the Yearly Meeting of Friends, held on Rhode-Island for New-England from the 11th to the 14th of the Sixth month inclusive 1820;

The following report of the School Committee being read, & the Clerk directed to forward Copies thereof to our Several Quarterly and monthly Meetings,

Extracted from the minutes of said Meeting

Abraham Shearman { Clerk

The Boarding School Committee report that since their appointment by the Yearly Meeting in the Sixth month last. They have given such attention to the concerns of the Institution as its circumstances seemed to require



The School is continued under the care of Mathew and Betsey Puxinton as Superintendents & Thomas Howland Stephen T. Chase & Wm. H. Wainwright as Instructors. The average number of children at the Institution for the year past has been about Seventy. Meetings for worship have been continued we trust with usefulness. The concerns of the family & School have been satisfactorily conducted by the Superintendents & Teachers and the improvement made by the children has generally been such as to afford encouragement to the Committee.

By the accounts of the Superintendent it appears that the expenses of the family have been defrayed by the receipts for board and tuition; but there still remains due to the Building Committee including expense of Furniture the sum of one thousand & eighty-four Dollars & eighty-six Cents.

The old School Funds has been so arranged that the sum of Six hundred Dollars per annum will be appropriated to the schooling of Poor Children as the Society agreeably to the original intention of the Donors. A further sum is also at the disposal of the Committee arising from Subscriptions in the year 1816; creating a fund of which ten Children have already had the benefit at the Institution and which including the above sum of Six hundred dollars will enable the Committee to admit free of expense one Child from each monthly meeting during Six months of the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the Committee by  
 Providence 5<sup>th</sup> May 5<sup>th</sup> 1820 Samuel Proctor,  
 Josias Brown.



Extract from the Minutes of the yearly Meeting of the  
Boarding School Committee at a Meeting held at  
Newport 14<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1820,

The Committee upon reviewing the minute of  
12<sup>th</sup> mo 2<sup>d</sup> 1818 whereby the price of Board &  
tuition &c. was fixed at one hundred dollars per annum  
and encouragement given that the price would be  
proportionally lessened when the situation of the  
Institution would admit - Now consider that the  
School may be rendered more beneficial to Society  
by a reduction of price & with this view it is  
concluded to fix it at twenty Dollars per quarter for  
the Children & Connections of friends of our yearly  
Meeting to take effect at the beginning of next month.  
That Children not belonging to our yearly Meeting  
are still to pay at the former rate of \$25 per  
quarter each quarter to be paid in advance.

Samuel Rodman Clerk.

The Epistle from the yearly Meeting held  
in London by adjournments, from the 14<sup>th</sup>  
of the fifth month to the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same  
inclusive 1819.

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of  
friends in Great Britton Ireland and elsewhere  
Dear Friends,

We have renewed cause of thank-  
fulness to the Father of mercies and God of  
all Comfort for having permitted us to be again  
Sensible that we are under his protecting  
Care. His love and his <sup>ancient</sup> goodness have not been  
withheld from us in this our annual assembly  
and under a fresh persuasion that He is still  
graciously willing to do us good we invite all our  
Dear friends to offer their hearts to his disposal.



In the wilderness of this life, danger assails us on every hand: but if we look with entire reliance unto Christ, the great Head of the Church, he will lead us safely along; he will protect us from being entangled by the briars and thorns; he will shield us from the Sun, and from the storm; he will permit us to know his voice, and to distinguish it from the voice of the stranger; and humbly to believe that we are of that "one fold," of which he is the everlasting Shepherd, — that he will give unto us eternal life, and that none shall pluck us out of his hand. How inviting are these truths! how animating are these assurances!

But this attainment is to be ours, only as we look in faith unto Him who declared, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

To deny ourselves, and take up the cross and duties which we desire earnestly to press upon all. If we seek for Divine aid that this may become the daily engagement of our lives, we shall be induced to make a narrow scrutiny into our thoughts, and into the motives which influence our conduct. Frequent self-examination will convince us that we are frail, and unworthy of the Lord's mercies. A conviction of our own weakness and transgressions will make us fearful of speaking of the errors of others; and tend to restrain us from tale bearing and detraction. At the same time, divine love operating on our hearts, and begetting therein the love of our neighbour, will constrain us to offer a word of counsel, in a way most calculated to produce the desired effect on such as we deem deficient in moral or religious duty.



precious and very desirable is a humble, contrite, teachable state of mind, in which the earnest prayer is raised, that we may live in the love and fear of our great Creator, and in all things walk ~~acceptably~~ before him. Oh! that all may be kept in the low valley of humility, where the dew remains long; where they will know the Lord to be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest. Here preservation is witnessed within the holy inclosure: here we are guarded against the snares which beset those who would make haste to be rich. How safe, how necessary it is for the humble Christian to set out well; to watch against the first temptations to covet great things; Sweet is the condition of the grateful mind; Sweet is a state of contentment and of daily dependance on the Lord.

X The amount of the sufferings of our friends in Great Britain and Ireland, as reported to this Meeting is upwards of fifteen thousand six hundred pounds. A very small proportion of these has been incurred for military purposes, whilst the remainder has arisen from the support of our Christian testimony against the payment of tithes, and other demands of an ecclesiastical nature.

We have received an epistle from our dear friends in Ireland, and one from each of the yearly Meetings in America. It is satisfactory to find that in several parts of that Continent, friends are alive to the rights and interests of the natives of Africa, and their descendants resident amongst them; and are ~~endeavouring~~, by the



establishment of Schools, to promote the education of their offspring. Their attempts also to introduce the benefits of civiliza<sup>tion</sup> life among the native inhabitants of the wilderness continue to be steady and persevering; and to be marked in some parts by a cheering degree of success. We are also glad to learn the favourable result of an application to the government of the United States, to secure to some of these natives a title to their lands, previously to an intended subdivision of this property, in order to its being transmitted by legal inheritance.

The continuance of the blessing of peace to this nation has warmed our hearts with gratitude. Our refusal to bear arms is not only a testimony against the violence and cruelty of war, but against a confidence in what is emphatically termed in Scripture, the "arms of flesh;" it is a testimony to the meekness and gentleness of Christ, and a resignation to suffer, in reliance on the power, the goodness, the protection, and the providence of the Almighty. Let us, even now, seek to have our trust so firmly fixed on this unfailing source of help, that if our faith should be ever again put to the test, we may have ground to look with humble confidence to Him in whom we have believed. Dear friends, if we have been quickened by the power of the Son of God, we shall not be idle spectators in the world, nor indolent occupiers of the talents with which we are intrusted; and, however varied our allotments may be, each will see that he has duties,



and very important duties to fulfill, in this state of existence. We shall, however find that it becomes the pious Christians to wait to know his exertions for the good of others regulated and sanctified by the Spirit of his Lord. We shall seek to be preserved from suffering by the friendships and intercourse of the world, and we shall see the necessity of continued watchfulness, that neither our own minds, nor those of our tender offspring, may be drawn aside from the simplicity and purity of the Truth as it is in Jesus. Our early predecessors received this Truth by conviction; they made great sacrifices to obtain an establishment therein, and having thus purchased their possession, they were careful not lightly to esteem it, nor to exchange it for any inferior object; but let us ever bear in mind that the Salvation of the Soul cannot be inherited by birthright, nor imparted by education. It is an individual work, indispensably necessary for every man to know wrought in him through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Let us then each seek to fill his allotted Station in the Church, that in the day of righteous decision we may all be found worthy to stand before God in Zion.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Signed in & on behalf of the Meeting by  
 William Dillworth Crewdson,  
 Clerk to the Meeting this year.



The Epistle from the yearly Meeting held in London by adjournments from the 24<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Month, to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month, inclusive 1820,

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends, in Great Britain, Ireland, and elsewhere.

Dear Friends,

It hath pleased our Heavenly Father again to permit us to meet for transacting the concerns of our religious Society; and we have, from time to time in the course of this Meeting, had reverently to acknowledge the continuance of his love towards us.

We have partaken of the fellowship of the Gospel; of that fellowship in which our predecessors, Valiant for the Truth, were comforted in the day of persecution; and which has been acting to the true believers from the earliest periods of the Christian Church: we therefore again feel engaged to offer the salutation of our love to all our dear friends, wherever they may be situated, with earnest desires that they may become united one unto another in Christ Jesus, our Holy Hea

+ The amount of <sup>the</sup> sufferings of our friends as reported to this Meeting, on account of tithes and other ecclesiastical demands, is upwards of sixteen thousand Pounds.

Our distant brethren have been again brought to our remembrance by an Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Ireland, and one from each of those established on the American Continent. It is encouraging to us to observe that there



Communications bespeak a continued solicitude for the prosperity of the Cause of Truth. By those from America, we find that the welfare of their Indian neighbours, and the rights of the injured African race, are still dear to our friends on the other Side of the Atlantic, and that, as favourable opportunities occur, they are publicly advocating the Cause of justice & mercy.

This meeting has been deeply affected on hearing that the Slave trade, notwithstanding its abolition by our legislature, and by various foreign powers, still exists, with the horrors consequent upon it, to a lamentable extent; and although the way does not immediately open for much to be done by us, on behalf of the objects of this nefarious and cruel traffic, we earnestly commend them to your continued remembrance & commiseration.

We have been again occupied in investigating the State of our Society; and our present concern is, to turn the attention of all our dear friends to a strict examination of their religious profession and experience. We profess to believe in the inward teachings of the Spirit of Christ Jesus, our Redeemer and Mediator, our Advocate with the Father; of Him whose precious blood was shed, that he might procure unto us eternal life, and present us holy, and unblamable and unreprouable unto God.

Let us individually inquire how far we are acting in conformity with the solemn truths of the Gospel. Are we seeking in humble Supplication unto the Lord, that our faith may be established therein? Are we in patient waiting before Him, desiring that we may clearly discover the inheritings of his light upon our understandings.



and that, by walking in faith, according to its manifestations, our lives may be spent in the love and fear of our great Creator?

It is of unspeakable importance to all, that they should know their own wills and dispositions regulated and sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit. If this engagement be earnest and frequent, humble views of ourselves ensue, a distrust in our rational powers as sufficient for the great work of Salvation is induced: we are taught the inestimable blessing which those enjoy who attain to a reliance on Holy aid; and, whilst we are brought low in our own estimation, and are fearful to speak of our religious attainments, we are enabled to rejoice in Him in whom we have believed. The time spent in silence, in our meetings for divine worship, would then be productive of spiritual refreshment; and our beloved brethren in their remote and solitary allotments, for whom we feel a tender sympathy, would in their small assemblies be animated by the presence of Him whose promises are unfailing. When the Christian temper predominates in our meetings for discipline, this salutary provision for the exercise of gospel love and care and for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring those who may be overtaken with a fault, is administered not only with kindness and meekness but in the authority of Truth; and each being watchful over his own spirit, those engaged in the business of these meetings would



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then conduct it with weight and in brotherly consideration; and they would prove to be times of deep instruction.

Our Christian principles teach us to live in the world aright, but not to live unto the world. If we indeed seek to be redeemed from its Spirit; if it be our daily concern that our garments may be kept unspotted by its defilements; that we may be clothed with the meekness and gentleness of Christ; we shall be enabled to discharge our civil and religious duties with holy propriety and to adorn the Gospel in our lives and conversation.

In times, in which the public feeling may be agitated by civil or political questions of general interest, or by such as involve the vital principles of our faith, the humble Christian thus prepared will retire to the place of true inward prayer. He will see the necessity of carefully suppressing in his own mind the first emotion of party zeal; but he will feel the advantage of cherishing a willingness to suffer, whether little or much, whether in secret exercise of mind, or in outward trials, to promote the cause of his Lord, who suffered so much for him. He will not view with indifference any open or less direct attacks upon those blessed truths on which his hope of salvation is founded. He will not be improperly solicitous for his own ease and security, when he sees difficulties and trouble threatening those around him;



his great Concern will be that he may in no way bring reproach on his high profession, but that by acknowledging the Lord in all his ways, He may direct his Father.

The love of the world operates in various ways to turn us aside from the path of holiness. We believe that it leads many to gratify themselves in dress and language in a way inconsistent with Christian simplicity. We are convinced that this departure from our well known testimony is an inlet to greater temptations and we believe that when this salutary restraint is found to be inhumane a desire to throw it off tends to retard the spiritual growth. We therefore affectionately entreat those who may be thus disposed, to consider well the motives for their conduct, and to reflect whether by this unwillingness, to take up the cross to their natural inclinations, they are not so far declining to become the disciples of Christ.

Dear young friends, your advancement in the way of piety and virtue continues to be a subject of our earnest solicitude. We tenderly exhort you all to cherish the belief, to seek to be established in the conviction that your heavenly Father as you look in faith unto Him, will assist you by his good Spirit to overcome everything that is wrong and to live acceptably in his sight. Be very careful then we beseech you not to read publications which openly or indirectly inculcate a disbelief in the benefits procured to us by the death & suffering of Christ.



in the divinity of Him our Lord & Saviour or in the perceptible guidance of his Spirit. On the contrary, in silent retirement before the Lord such after the constricting influence of his love in sincere desires that in his own time, it may please him, that you also may richly partake of that consolation and strength which are the portion of his faithful, dependent children. And as we can rejoice in the persuasion that many of you have yielded to the visitations of Divine Love, we wish to encourage these to hold on in the path of dedication to continue to love the Lord & to desire to know & to do his will.

May there, may all our dear friends be impressed with the continued necessity of watchfulness unto prayer, & of being clothed with humility as with a garment. The faithful disciple will guard against relying too much on former experience; he will find that an increase of years produces an increasing conviction that we are entirely dependent upon God for fresh supplies of strength; but he will be animated to persevere, from the consoling hope that if faith & patience continue, Christian virtues will increase; humility, meekness, & liveliness of Spirit will be prevalent in advanced life; and a final admission will be granted into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting  
 By Josiah Foster,  
 Clerk to the meeting this year



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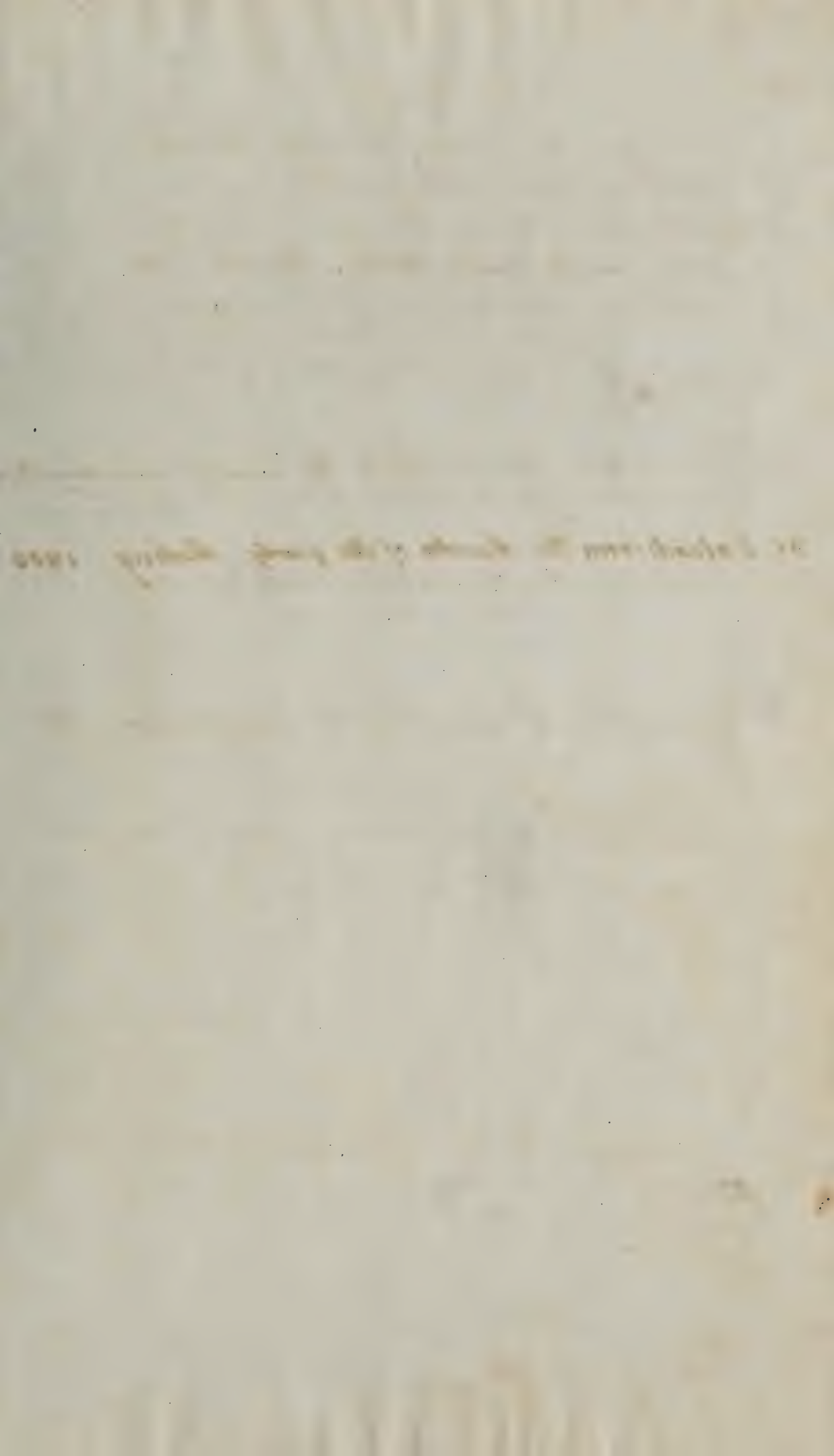
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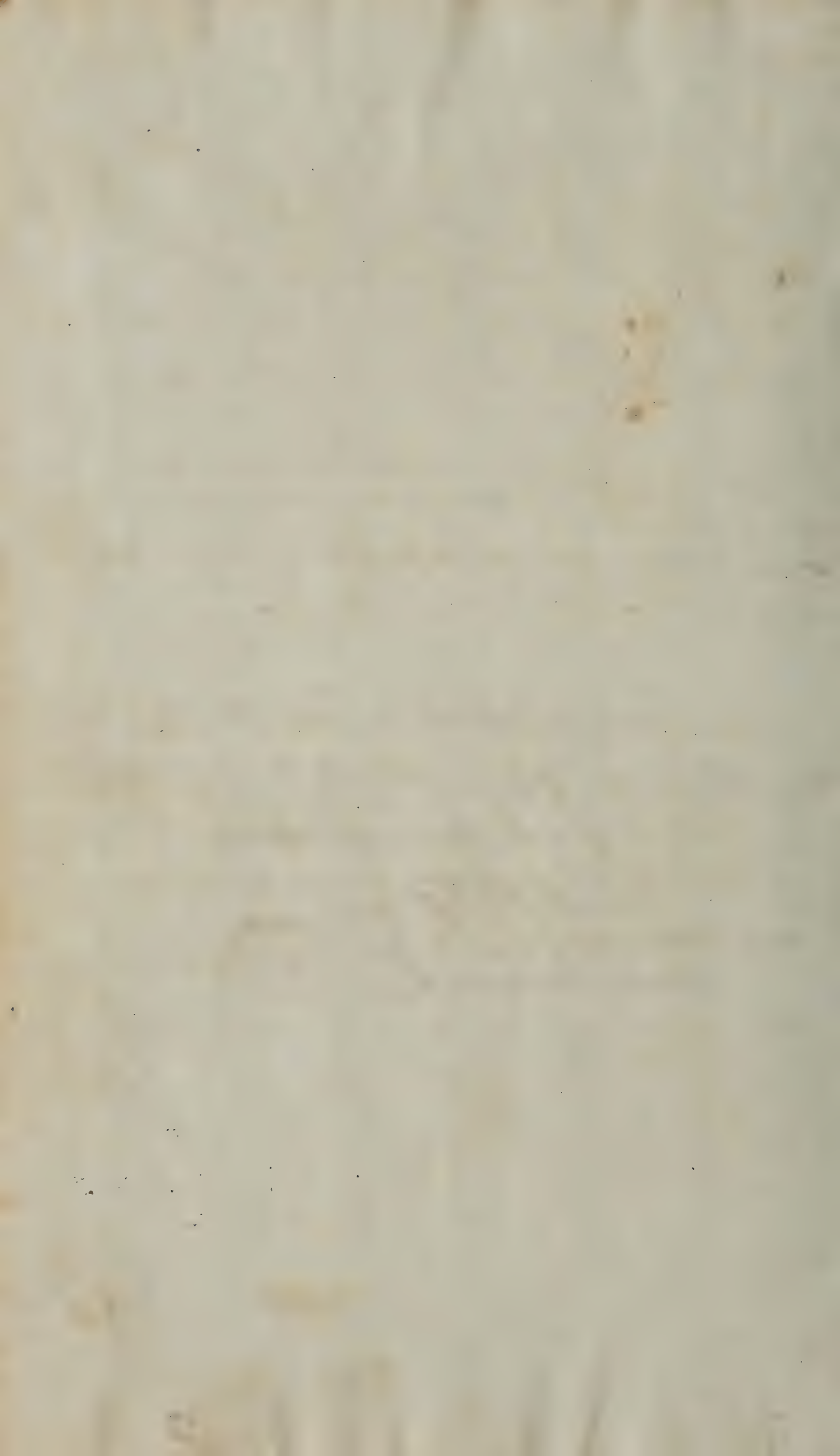
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 60 Extracts of the Yearly Meeting 1800 & of the Quarterly Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> mo 1800  
 73 Extracts from the Minutes of the yearly Meeting 1801  
 80 Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting 1802  
 81 Extracts from the Minutes of the yearly Meeting 1803  
 86 Extracts from the Minutes of the yearly Meeting 1803  
 91 Extracts from the Quarterly Meetings Minutes 1804  
 92 Extracts from the Minutes of the yearly Meeting 1804  
 107 Extracts from the Minutes of the yearly Meeting 1806  
 109 Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting 1807  
 123 Extracts from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting 1808  
 124 Extracts from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting 1808  
 146 Extracts from the Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting 1809  
 147 Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes 1809  
 149 Extracts from the Quarterly Meetings Minutes - 1810  
 154 Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes - 1810  
 157 Extracts from the Quarterly Meeting Minutes 1811  
 158 Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting 1811  
 176 Extracts from the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings 1813  
 177 Extract from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting 1814  
 178 Extract from the Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting 1814  
 180 Extract from the meeting of a Quarterly Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> mo 1815  
 181 A minutes from the Yearly Meeting 1815  
 220 Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes - 1817  
 233 Extracts from the Yearly Meetings Minutes - 1818  
 240 Extracts from the Yearly meetings on Nov 1820  
 242 Extract from the Yearly Meeting Boarding School Committee meeting's minute 1820



# Meetings Conclusions & Recommendations

- 1 The Conclusion of the Quarterly Meeting respecting the <sup>Members</sup> Select
- 27 A Minute from the Meeting for Sufferings 12<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1797
- 28 A Recommendation for Raising £4. 19. 0 towards defraying the  
Expences of Wickford Meeting house
- 39 A Paper relating to the Division of Uxbridge & Richmond  
Monthly Meetings with the Answer
- 52 Recommendations from the Meeting for Sufferings with Regard to  
the Massachusetts militia act
- 235 Conclusions & Recommendations of the Yearly Meeting  
Boarding School Committee







# Testimonies of Denial

- 1 A Testimony of the Denial of Silas Gaskill
- 15 A Testimony of the Denial of William Wing
- 15 A Testimony of the Denial of George Hardy
- 16 A Testimony of the Denial of Nathan Coss
- 17 A Testimony of the Denial of Varney Gaskill
- 27 A Testimony of the Denial of Joseph Wing jun<sup>r</sup>
- 54 A Testimony of the Denial of Alfred Saben
- 68 A Testimony of the Denial of Daniel Coss
- 71 A Testimony of the Denial of Jonathan Coss
- 72 A Testimony of the Denial of Daniel Coss J<sup>r</sup>
- 72 A Testimony of the Denial of Hotel Wing
- 91 A Testimony of the Denial of Silas Gilson
- 155 A Testimony of the Denial of Paul Gilson J<sup>r</sup>
- 156 A Testimony of the Denial of John Garnsey
- 171 A Testimony of the Denial of Solomon Gage
- 172 A Testimony of the Denial of Deleg Toft J<sup>r</sup>
- 179 A Testimony of the Denial of Samuel Arnold
- 180 A Testimony of the Denial of Moses Saben
- 222 A Testimony of the Denial of Silas Boyce
- 223 A Testimony of the Denial of Stephen Baker
- 223 A Testimony of the Denial of Luke Gilson
- 224 A Testimony of the Denial of President Saben
- 235 A Testimony of the Denial of Joseph Whitaker
- 239 A Testimony of the Denial of Roswell Randall
- 239 A Testimony of the Denial of Rufus Randall
- 240 A Testimony of the Denial of Silas Whitaker



















